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RUC to face shake-up and new inquiry

Dublin not satisfied by King initiative

By Richard Ford and John Cooney

A chief constable from England has been appointed to consider whether Royal Ulster Constabulary officers should face disciplinary charges arising out of the Stalker-Sampson inquiry.

The Government announced yesterday that the Northern Ireland Police Authority would also consider observations on the roles played by officers above the rank of chief superintendent at the time of six killings in 1982, with a view to deciding if disciplinary action should be taken.

Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland,

detailed in the Commons yesterday a number of changes that had taken place in the RUC's line of command and in particular in supervision of its Special Branch as part of Government efforts to ease strained relations between London and Dublin.

Mr King told MPs that work was underway to ensure that serious incidents involving the RUC were thoroughly

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investigated and that the Director of Public Prosecutions in Northern Ireland received full and accurate information.

The Irish government dismissed the statement as "absolutely unsatisfactory". However, it accepts that its demands for prosecuting officers in relation to the shootings will not be met. Mr Ray Burke, the Irish minister for energy, said they would monitor the changes in the RUC which might improve relations.

Mr King implicitly vindicated many of the criticisms made by Mr John Stalker in his memoirs detailing the two years he spent investigating the killing of five unarmed terrorist suspects and a nationalist youth in County Armagh.

He said he regretted the difficulties and problems that had been posed for the police. A shadow of innuendo had been cast more widely over the RUC by the incidents which had resulted in the loss of six lives.

Mr King it was "wrong and regrettable" that two unarmed, plainclothes RUC officers had crossed the border for observation purposes in a Special Branch operation in 1982.

He said: "It is the Government's intention that this should not happen again and the RUC chief constable, Sir John Hermon, for his part, has undertaken to ensure that it does not happen again; nor has it occurred since."

Mr King advised MPs who were urging "hot-pursuit" operations by the security forces into the Irish republic to be aware of the sensitivities involved. "Very difficult issues are involved and very strong emotions have been stirred", he said.

He said that Mr Charles Kelly, Chief Constable of Staffordshire, had begun investigating whether internal disciplinary charges should be laid against RUC officers

below the rank of chief superintendent as a result of the Stalker-Sampson inquiry.

Sir Patrick Mayhew, Attorney General, told the Commons last month that officers would not face criminal proceedings in spite of evidence that they had conspired to pervert the course of justice or obstructed a police officer in the execution of his duty.

Mr King said that Sir John had accepted in full the recommendations of a 1983 review of aspects of Special Branch management and its relationship with the CID.

Mr King said a senior assistant chief constable now coordinated the Special Branch and CID. Mr Charles McLachlan, of Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary, had stressed that regional assistant chief constables were now aware of Special Branch operations in their areas.

He had recommended the prevention of over-specialization, the encouragement of cross posting within the RUC and between it and forces on the mainland, and further integration of the Special Branch with the rest of the force.

Mr King said the chief constable was considering a further idea from Mr McLachlan that an experienced assistant chief constable should be appointed to lead inquiries into controversial incidents and that a senior CID officer should attend any debriefing where firearms had been used by the RUC and people were killed or injured.

He had also recommended improved arrangements so that forensic, pathology and photographic resources were better used. Mr King said Sir John had accepted in principle all of the recommendations made by Mr McLachlan.

Mr Charles Haughey, the

Continued on page 22, col 1



Mr Charles Kelly: Started new RUC investigation.

Labour leader's wife weeps after hospital visit



Mrs Glenys Kinnock closing her eyes as she listened with her husband yesterday to an injured Palestinian at the al-Ittihad hospital in Nablus explaining how he was paralysed.

Kinnock anger over victims of the West Bank

From Philip Webster, Nablus

Mr Neil Kinnock reacted with outrage and his wife was moved to tears yesterday when they came face-to-face with the victims of the Palestinian uprising on the occupied West Bank.

The Labour leader said that injured young Palestinians he visited at a hospital in the trouble-hit town of Nablus had been shot in the back by Israeli troops, and said it was action that nothing could justify.

His dramatic outburst, on the eve of two days of talks with Israeli leaders here, can only add to the tension between Britain and Israel, still high after the attack on the conditions in the refugee camps in January by Mr David Mellor, Minister of State at the Foreign Office.

It came after Mr Kinnock had talks with Palestinian leaders in Nablus on the first day of his visit to the occupied territories. He said: "Live ammunition is being used and youngsters are being shot in the back. There is no way that can be invented when you see the wounds."

"The basic thing is that they are being shot. And the second thing is that they are being shot when they are going in the opposite direction."

Mr Kinnock and his wife were taken to the 100-bed al-Ittihad Hospital, run by the Arab Women's Union. Shown around by Mr Yusef al-Masry, the hospital director, they saw six men who have recently been seriously injured in the disturbances. Mr Kinnock held the hands of the

stricken Palestinians, and asked them through interpreters how they had received their injuries.

The first, he was told, had been shot with an explosive bullet and doctors showed him X-rays. He saw another who had had a leg amputated. Mr Kinnock and his wife were then shown a young man whom Mr al-Masry said had been shot in the back.

Mr Kinnock pointed to a small wound on the man's chest and asked if it was an exit wound, and he was told that it was.

It was when he moved on to the fifth man, who was seriously ill and who was having cold compresses applied to his forehead, that Mr Kinnock's shock turned to anger.

He said: "Are you telling me that this boy was shot in the back as well?" The doctor replied: "Yes, in the kidneys and pancreas." Mr Kinnock was then told that the man could not move his legs.

The injured man told Mr Kinnock in a faint voice that he had been in his home when he was shot, and had not been engaged in any demonstrations.

Mr Kinnock emerged from the hospital pale-faced and muttering to his colleagues: "They were shot in the back." Mrs Kinnock was in tears as she stood on the hospital steps while the Labour leader spoke to journalists.

Asked if he felt he had seen only one side of the story, Mr Kinnock said that he bore that very much in mind.

Shop stewards in plea to reject Ford two-year pay deal

By Tim Jones

Ford union negotiators suffered a setback yesterday in their attempt to persuade workers of their "victory" over the company when shop stewards at Halewood, Merseyside, recommended rejection of the two-year deal.

However, the union leaders, who forced the company to back down from proposals to introduce a three-year agreement and Japanese-style working practices, were confident that a majority would vote to return to work next Monday.

Mr Peter Moore, a convenor at Halewood, said the members considered the deal, which will increase wages by a minimum of 14 per cent over two years, to be inadequate.

"We feel there should be more money on offer. We are also concerned that plants on the Continent are getting improvements in hours and holidays that we won't get for another two years," he said.

Mr Moore said the implications of the agreement at national and local plant level would be explained to the Merseyside employees before they voted on the offer today.

Shop stewards at Bridgend, South Wales, where 80 per cent of the 1,300 manual workers rejected the original deal, said yesterday they be-

Thatcher demand on missiles

From Michael Evans, Brussels

Mrs Thatcher yesterday raised the stakes for next month's summit by insisting that tactical nuclear missiles based in Europe must be modernized. Speaking at Nato Headquarters here, she gave her full backing to the modernization of the weapons which are deployed with British forces and four other Nato army units in West Germany.

The weapon, the American Lance missile with a range of 70 miles, was first deployed 16

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years ago and the US wants to update the system, increasing the range to about 280 miles.

Mrs Thatcher's comments yesterday were seen as a deliberate attempt to put pressure on the West Germans who are opposed to the Lance modernization programme. Bonn wants these short-range battlefield weapons to be included in arms control negotiations with Russia.

The short-range missiles are the one issue likely to cause a division at next month's summit.

Mrs Thatcher insisted yesterday that it was the duty of all Nato government leaders to ensure that nuclear weapons remained up to date.

Senior US officer seized in Lebanon

From Jean Carlos Guncio, west Beirut

A senior American Marine working with the UN peace-keeping force in Lebanon was kidnapped yesterday.

Officials said he was Lieutenant-Colonel William Higgins, aged 43, chief of the United Nations Truce Supervising Organizations, whose observers work with the UN peacekeeping force, Unifil.

No group claimed responsibility for the abduction. A statement issued by the American Embassy said only that US officials were trying to obtain more information.

UN sources said that Colonel Higgins was driving from Tyre to Naqoura, Unifil's headquarters, and two other men from his group were preceding him. They noticed

that Colonel Higgins's vehicle disappeared just beyond a crossroads leading to the Shia Muslim village of Ras el-Ain.

The area is patrolled by Unifil but is effectively under the control of Shia militiamen. Unconfirmed reports from southern Lebanon said that Colonel Higgins had been intercepted by six gunmen.

WASHINGTON: The White House said it held the kidnappers responsible for the safety of Colonel Higgins (Christopher Thomas writes).

US officials said Colonel Higgins had arrived in Lebanon in June and was in charge of a group of about 75 officers from different countries in the UN observer group. Fifteen or 16 American officers are assigned to the group.

Pressure on Waldheim files

By Howard Foster

The Government was under increasing pressure last night to provide a full explanation of the destruction of files which linked President Waldheim of Austria with the deaths of six British commandos in 1944.

Mrs Thatcher is also to be asked whether she will try to obtain duplicates of the files from the United States, which may have retained relevant documents in its archives. The Times disclosed two weeks ago that Foreign Office officials ordered the destruction of the Alimnia Files on the fate of the men in 1978.

A day after the Prime Minister announced that a new inquiry into the torture

and execution of the servicemen was to be held, it emerged that Mr Edward Heath, Prime Minister in 1971, had not been told of Dr Waldheim's past, as revealed in the files, when the Austrian leader was proposed

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as United Nations Secretary-General at that time.

Britain had opposed Dr Waldheim's nomination in 1971 but subsequently acquiesced. Yesterday, Dr David Owen said that he had written to Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, asking whether Dr Waldheim's war record was known to the British in the early 1970s.

"I also asked why I was not informed of his past during my period as Foreign Secretary," said Dr Owen, who added that he had not been told the files had been shredded during his period of office in 1978.

Yesterday, Mr Heath dismissed any suggestion that he was aware of Dr Waldheim's war record: "There was never any question about Waldheim being a war criminal. None whatsoever. We did not know that," he said.

The Foreign Secretary of the time, Lord Home, said that he had not known of Dr Waldheim's war record and that he had been appointed from a

US winners and losers look to battle in South

From Michael Binyon, Nashua, New Hampshire

The American presidential campaign yesterday rolled south, away from the snows and picturesque villages of New Hampshire to the unpredictable campaign field spread over the 19 states which vote on March 8.

With huge distances involved and enormous sums now required for television advertising, only the candidates with money, momentum and a strong base will survive.

On the Republican side, Vice President George Bush, jubilant after his convincing victory here, will make the most of his good organization

and cash reserves to fight off the aggressive and increasingly bitter challenge from Senator Robert Dole.

Among the Democrats, Governor Michael Dukakis's record-breaking win gives him attention, credibility and the power to add to his \$2 million war chest. But he faces a tough challenge from Mr Richard Gephardt, the Missouri congressman whose protectionist message will do well in the depressed oil states.

They will both be challenged by Senator Albert Gore of Tennessee, who formally added his name to the list

The day that Norfolk nearly found itself abroad

by David Thurlow

Few people who were present would have been able to forget the day an American went berserk in a Norfolk atom bomb store, even if he had not threatened to commit suicide by discharging a loaded pistol into a nuclear weapon.

But someone was economical with the truth in telling the then prime minister, wherein lies a tale which first took its place in the public domain in The Times Diary in January.

In a television programme tonight, Lord Ward of Witley, a former Air Minister, will explain how Mr Harold Macmillan misled the nation because his advisers misinformed him about the incident, which the Government

did not regard as important at the time.

It happened in October 1958 at the USAF bomber base at Sculthorpe, then one of the most strategically vital spots in Europe's nuclear front line. At the time it was Government policy to deny that nuclear weapons existed on British soil. Even now no one will say whether the bomb, containing 15 lbs of plutonium, could have gone off, though it is regarded as "unlikely".

Tonight, Thames Television's This Week interviews the villain of the piece, Master Sergeant Leander Cunningham, who was under stress at the time. He is now a retired computer engineer and has just completed three years of treatment in a mental hospital.

Soon after the incident, which ended after eight hours when Cunningham gave himself up, Lord Ward, then Mr George Ward, answered a question in the House of Commons by saying it would have been impossible for anyone to get into the store.

He said: "I was briefed when I answered questions, to say there was no nuclear danger of any kind. I wasn't briefed to say there were no nuclear bombs, but there was no nuclear danger."

Four years later, after the Pentagon had admitted it was a nuclear warhead, Mr Macmillan told the House of Commons: "There was no fissionable material in the building and no possibility of a nuclear explosion of any kind."

In tonight's programme Mr Ward, now Lord Ward of Witley, says that when Mr Macmillan said there were no atomic bombs in the building "he was misinformed there. I think he must have been."

Lord Ward says it was "an isolated case at an American Air Force base and it didn't concern us at all, it didn't concern the Royal Air Force at all and it ended peacefully anyway. Nothing happened. The importance of it I think was overlooked at the time."

The Americans were less sanguine. They were so shocked by the incident that they set up a screening process for all servicemen working with nuclear weapons. It transpired that Cunningham, under stress, had been told by doctors a year before the incident that he was "a walking time bomb."

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NEWS ROUNDUP

Royal Mail steps up parcel service

The Post Office is launching a 48-hour parcels service with a £30 million investment to try to carve a substantial slice of the booming business-to-business market.

It is called SuperService and is part of Royal Mail Parcels. The network will have 10 main centres around Britain and a 1,000-strong lorry fleet. The guaranteed 48-hour delivery will be aimed at companies likely to spend at least £10,000 a year.

Royal Mail Parcels' standard service has 29 per cent of the parcels market and its Datapost arm is established in the overnight delivery sector. There is keen competition from private companies, such as Securicor, TNT and Federal Express.

Mr Nicholas Nelson, managing director of Royal Mail Parcels, said: "SuperService will provide a 48-hour delivery at the kind of price our competitors charge for a basic three-day delivery without any guarantee."

Driving Balloons test move in clear

Magistrates are urging the Department of Transport to introduce a stiffer driving test which will take more account of a motorist's ability to drive on motorways.

Major Alan Lea, vice-chairman of the Magistrates' Association's road traffic committee, said yesterday that members were worried about the number of accident hearings in petty sessions divisions.

The association wants to see greater use made of simulators by learner drivers so that some feel for motorway driving can be acquired.

An action alleging two balloons flew too close to a stud farm was withdrawn by the Civil Aviation Authority yesterday. A £100,000 thoroughbred foal died after bolting as the balloons passed near the Cliff Stud, Helmsley, North Yorkshire.

Mr Nicholas Purvis and Mr Andrew Rawson, the pilots, were to be charged with "flying closer than 500ft from persons, vehicles and structures". The charges were dropped at Picking Magistrates' Court, North Yorkshire, after evidence showed they were 1,400ft from the stud.

Bid for bomb retrial

A convicted multiple killer claimed yesterday that he was innocent of murdering 15 people in a nightclub fire-bomb attack.

Jimmy Finch, aged 43, flew into Britain from Australia yesterday after being released on parole. He announced that his lawyers were demanding a retrial on the ground that he was framed for the crime by Australian police.

Finch, whose family lives in Essex, served 14 years of a life sentence for the biggest mass murder in Australian history. He was freed on parole from Brisbane's Bogga Road jail on Tuesday on condition that he left the country immediately.

35p thief Wait for loses case parents

A man who spent 15 years in jail for a 35p armed robbery, failed in the High Court in London yesterday to win compensation.

The European Court ruled last year that the human rights of Mr Robert Weeks, aged 38, of Gosport, Hampshire, had been violated. He was jailed for life aged 17 after using a starting pistol to rob a shop owner of 35p. He was given a royal pardon after the European ruling.

Lord Justice Gidwell and Mr Justice French decided yesterday that he was not entitled to compensation.

TV-am strike ballot

Journalists at TV-am will decide this morning whether to work with non-union crews or to take industrial action. The motion before the 100 editorial staff at the commercial breakfast-time station in the secret ballot says the latter would be "up to and including strike action" in support of 229 technicians dismissed after a dispute about working practices.

So far the journalists have refused to work with non-union crews.

Council inquiry into £1m jobs scheme bill

By John Spicer, Employment Affairs Correspondent

Ratepayers face a bill for more than £1 million for renovation work on two houses carried out under a scheme to train school leavers.

The London borough of Lewisham has ordered an inquiry into the renovation of the three-story houses. At one stage losses were running at £9,000 a week.

As well as investigating the cost, the council wants to know why the 30 school leavers who joined the Lewisham Young Builders - a scheme with Manpower Services Commission backing - were supervised by

craftworkers who had no experience of major refurbishment and lacked many other skills.

The work, which should have cost £501,000 but eventually produced a bill of £1,100,000, began "informally" in May 1985. Mr John Harwood, Lewisham's chief executive, said in a report to the council that losses on the site were running at £6,900 a week by December that year, when the manager left and was not replaced. It was then decided to call in skilled council workers, but they went on strike because of an industrial dispute and the work was held up for eight months.

As work was about to resume in August 1986, it was found that building materials had gone missing and losses were then running at £9,900 a week. Work was finished on the two houses last July.

£4m campaign launched to dispel Aids myths

By Thomson Prentice Science Correspondent

The Government launched a £4 million Aids publicity campaign yesterday, aimed at combating a "dangerous complacency" about the risks of the disease.

Health Education Authority experts are worried that previous national campaigns have failed to have a lasting impact. Research suggests that few people have altered their sexual behaviour and there appears to be declining public interest in attempts to prevent the disease's spread.

"Almost everybody in the UK knows about Aids but most people do not believe it is their problem. They are not worried about contracting the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and consequently have not changed their sexual behaviour to any great extent", the authority said. "More people are dying of Aids every month and they are not only homosexual men and injecting drug users."

The authority estimates that 50,000 people in Britain are carrying the HIV virus, of whom 2,000 became infected through heterosexual contact. So far 1,283 people have developed Aids, of whom 720 have died.

Mr John Hitchens, an Aids researcher working at the authority, said: "Aids is spreading at an alarming rate and is growing significantly among heterosexuals. There is every possibility it will grow alarmingly unless we intervene now."

The evidence from surveys has dismayed government advisers on Aids control because the massive "Don't Die of Ignorance" campaigns launched a year ago gained

unprecedented publicity and have been regarded by other countries as models to emulate.

The aim of those campaigns was to demolish myths and misconceptions about the disease and to provide clear information which could change attitudes and lead to safer sexual behaviour.

In the absence of a cure or vaccine, such campaigns are seen by the Government and the World Health Organization as the cornerstone of prevention.

Although there have been some encouraging trends among homosexuals, few heterosexual men and women seem to have considered themselves at risk.

One survey showed that 9 per cent of people said they had more than one sexual partner in the past year and 2 per cent claimed to have had five or six.

Fifty per cent of 18 to 24-year-olds, and a third of 16 to 17-year-olds admitted that if they wanted to have sexual relations, they would not stop because they did not have a condom.

"There is some evidence of complacency recently", Miss Kaye Wellings, the authority's senior research officer on Aids, said. Some of it could be attributed to a "blind faith" in the ability of doctors to cure the disease, she said.

The new efforts, including television and cinema commercials and newspaper and magazine advertisements, emphasize the potentially fatal consequences of promiscuity. The first television advertisement was broadcast last night, with the message: "You know the risks. The decision is yours." and "Using a condom could help save your life".

Part of the campaign is aimed directly at business travellers who

are tempted to have sexual relations while away from home. They are being warned of the risks in newspapers, journals and "girlie" magazines.

The genuine case of a British businessman aged 42 who contracted the HIV virus after a casual but intimate encounter on a foreign trip is also being used in newspaper advertisements during the four-month campaign.

The man, identified only as Robert, has never had a homosexual experience or injected drugs. When he learnt he was HIV-positive four years ago, it was, he said: "Like being told I was going to die. That knowledge almost destroyed me."

Dr Spencer Hagard, chief executive of the HEA, said yesterday: "It is an uphill struggle to convince people that Aids is a genuine threat but we must get this across."

Open heart operations at Papworth are cancelled

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

Open heart surgery at Papworth hospital, in Cambridge, has been halted because of staff illness and a shortage of trained nurses for the intensive care unit.

The hospital, one of the leading centres in heart surgery and transplants, already had one of the seven beds in intensive care empty because of its staff shortage. This week five staff nurses are off ill and a further bed has had to be left empty.

Two operations were cancelled on Tuesday. Yesterday Stuart Downey, aged 17, travelled from Norfolk for surgery but was sent home.

Mr Keith Heron, general manager of Huntingdon Health Authority, said: "We expect that at least six operations will be cancelled by the weekend, but we hope to readmit patients as soon as possible". None of the cancelled cases was an emergency.

Mr Heron said 160 patients had been waiting for up to three months for heart surgery at Papworth. He added: "We are trying to get the maximum use from the resources we have."

In Birmingham, nurses at the Queen Elizabeth hospital said they had been "too efficient" in treatment of cancer patients and had admissions reduced as a result. Cancer patients receiving chemotherapy are discharged early and others are left lying in pain for hours in outpatient departments because of a lack of beds, they said.

Miss Ite Carus-Wilson, a nursing sister, who runs the radiotherapy ward, said: "We have had to cut a third of our beds. People who are unfit to travel are made to use am-

bulances and are treated as outpatients.

"They are left in a lot of pain lying on stretchers waiting for hours to be taken home. We were too efficient: we treated a third more patients than we should have done, so we suffered cut backs."

Senior nurses at the hospital, where 76 beds including 25 cancer beds have been closed, launched a Nurses Action Group yesterday to call for more cash for the National Health Service. At Queen Elizabeth there was an acute shortage of medical equipment, they said.

Nursing managers and 400 nurses across the city support the Queen Elizabeth group.

The action group said the central Birmingham area was short of 300 nurses. Budgets were so restricted that charitable donations were used to buy pillows and drip stands.

The nurses plan a series of demonstrations but pledged not to strike in their attempt to win more money for the health service.

Mr Peter Rookes, district nursing officer of Central Birmingham Health Authority, is backing the nurses' campaign. He emphasized that the action was not about nurses' pay, which they were satisfied to leave with the review body negotiations, but about underfunding.

"Nurses are concerned about the effect this is having on the care of patients and they want to place the facts before the public", Mr Rookes said. "It is for the public to determine, by influencing the Prime Minister, whether more money should be given."

A family outing for the champion



For an English setter a romp across the Lincolnshire fields comes close to winning Crufts. Supreme champion Starlight Express (left) took to the fields yesterday near her home at Long Sutton flanked by her sire, Marcus, "half-brother" Bruno, "cousin" Shona and escorted by her owners, Joe and Valerie Watkins (Photograph: Harry Kerr).

Defence questions

MPs in search for truth over Trident

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

The powerful Commons defence committee yesterday sent more than 50 detailed questions to the Ministry of Defence to establish the truth of a number of alarming reports on the Trident and other nuclear programmes.

MPs feel that in some cases the ministry has been less than frank with the cross-party committee, which has the power to demand information. In particular they want to know:

• Whether widely reported

problems in warhead production at the Aldermaston Atomic Weapons Research Establishment in Berkshire could delay the programme;

• The precise implications of the highly controversial arrangement, disclosed last October, under which Britain will use Trident missiles from an American "pool" in King's Bay, Georgia;

• What is the current condition of the Polaris submarines, and whether one of the four will need a fourth

multi-million pound refit before Trident becomes operational;

• How much of Trident-related construction costs at Faslane, Coupar and elsewhere are attributed to the stated £9 billion cost of the programme;

• Exactly how serious was the reported reactor malfunction on the Polaris submarine HMS Resolution while berthed at Faslane last month.

The committee normally conducts an annual review of

progress on the Trident programme at this time of year. However, at a private meeting yesterday morning it decided to home in particularly on issues on which previous ministry statements have been at odds with press reports. "In some cases there does seem to have been some juggling, some slight of hand in their answers", one member said.

The issue which most concerns the committee is the threat of delays in warhead production at Aldermaston.

Whitehall reforms

Management efficiency plan today

By David Walker, Public Administration Correspondent

The Prime Minister's widely heralded announcement today of management reforms within Whitehall is shortly to be followed by the announcement of a new programme for dispersing Civil Service jobs out of London.

The first move is designed to make the Civil Service more efficient by having higher-grade officials function like private sector managers with considerable freedom from their parent departments. The other is designed to reduce costs and ease recruitment problems.

The dual-purpose programme could within a few years have a dramatic effect on the shape of the central government machine.

When later today Mrs Margaret Thatcher announces her acceptance of a report, *The Next Steps*, from Sir Robin Ibbot, her efficiency adviser,

she will be advancing a programme of Whitehall reform that has seen Civil Service manpower cut by more than 100,000 and commercial management styles brought in under the Financial Management Initiative.

The implementation of the Ibbot report together with a new programme for cutting the 16,000 Civil Servants based in London may come to be seen as one of Mrs Thatcher's most enduring legacies.

Neither policy is likely to be reversed by any alternative government. Labour favours devolution of Civil Service jobs and has so far been agnostic on the managerial changes.

Sir Robin, an ICI executive, proposed to the Prime Minister last year an ambitious scheme for maximizing the number of Civil Servants

expected to operate in the style of private managers, with their own budgets to run.

He envisaged dividing Civil Service work into semi-autonomous blocks headed by executives who, after being given financial targets, would be free to organize their staffs without interference from the centre over pay or equipment.

About 20,000 officials would remain as policy advisers directly accountable to ministers.

Mrs Thatcher will today indicate that there are to be a number of pilot studies along those lines but will stop well short of the full managerial freedom advocated by the efficiency unit.

That envisaged that many officials would cease to be Crown servants and would be employed on contracts. At present Civil Servants have no

formal contract of employment.

Her announcement represents a compromise with the Treasury which was concerned that Ibbot would lead to loss of control over spending and pay.

Correction

Our report on February 16 of Mrs Diana Braham's article on foetal transplantation and the law should have made clear that she was discussing the possibility of transplanting organs or tissue from dead, legally-aborted foetuses, which would not constitute a criminal offence. The destruction of a foetus in the womb or in the process of birth would constitute abortion and/or child destruction, not murder, unless the child had gained a separate, independent existence from its mother.

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• Cruising to Zanzibar, the Minquiers and the Frisian Islands.

• Refresher course - brush up your navigation.

Freighter sails off leaving its troubles behind

By Kerry Gill

The 797-tonne Skellig Rock, which lost overboard two huge chunks of a Trident submarine, sailed peacefully from the Irish Republic to Antwerp yesterday with a more stable and less controversial cargo of barley, and left behind a crop of embarrassed investigators.

Shocked MPs were told how a 60-ton Trident section worth £300,000 had tumbled into the sea from the Bahamian-registered freighter on the night of February 5.

Next day another section, weighing 40 tons and also worth £300,000, splashed overboard.

The Ministry of Defence, which is paying Vickers of Barrow, Cumbria, to build Tridents, is investigating.

Vickers, which sub-contracted the sections which went overboard to Motherwell Bridge, a company of Scottish engineers, is investigating.

Motherwell Bridge, which loaded

the sections on to the deck of the Skellig Rock, is investigating.

Seaview Shipping Corporation, of Monrovia, which owns the vessel, remained silent as did its London agent, Alexander Partners of City Wall, Finsbury Street, London.

Alexanders agrees that it is commercial manager of the Skellig Rock but refers all inquiries to the shipping agent which chartered the vessel, Henry Abram of Glasgow.

Abram is investigating and says it has used the Skellig Rock several times and everything had been satisfactory.

Events aboard the ship on the disastrous days of February 5 and 6 remain a mystery. Captain Hollingwood, the skipper, refused to give any details to *The Times*, not even his first name.

This much, however, appears clear: Motherwell Bridge was responsible

for loading the Trident sections by crane on to the deck of the Skellig Rock as it lay in Motherwell's berth at Scotland's Glasgow. It looked a trim vessel with freshly painted black sides, red decking and white superstructure, flying the aquamarine, gold and black flag of the Bahamas.

Motherwell reports that loading was safely done and it was the responsibility of the skipper to ensure the cargo was properly secured, using steel lashers which appeared to be new.

Motherwell did not feel responsible for supervising that.

The freighter sailed from Glasgow for Barrow at noon on Friday, February 5 when the weather forecast was for Force 5-6 winds from the South-west.

That night, when the ship was off the Mull of Galloway, 120 miles from Glasgow, the first section fell overboard into 55 metres of water. It was a

60-tonne submarine bow section, 30ft in diameter.

Early the next morning, 70 miles further on, the second section slipped into 15 metres of water west of Walney Island, off Barrow. That section comprised steel plates weighing about 40 tonnes, for the submarine's internal decks.

The forecast for Saturday morning February 6 was Force 6-7 winds from the North-west. Sea conditions were rough on both days.

It is expected that the parts will be salvaged but a salvage expert said it was unlikely submarines, notoriously superstitious, would want to sail in a vessel made up of the parts.

Mr Tam Dalyell, Labour MP for Leithgow, said: "It is preposterous that a small Bahamian-registered ship should be entrusted with highly sophisticated parts of Trident strapped to its deck in the face of storm warnings."

سكيا من الادل

Incomes gap is not just a North-South divide, says survey

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

The existence of the North-South divide is confirmed by official figures released yesterday, but they also show substantial differences in wealth and prosperity within regions.

Income per capita in Greater London is more than twice that in Britain's poorest county, Mid Glamorgan. However, South Glamorgan, in which Cardiff is situated and which borders Mid Glamorgan, is one of the richest counties.

The figures, contained in the Central Statistical Office publication *Economic Trends*, take the Government's regional accounts a stage further than previous statistics by breaking the figures down into counties.

The figures show that, at regional level, there are definite North-South differences. Gross domestic product per capita in 1986 ranged from 75.1 per cent of the United Kingdom average in Northern Ireland to 116.2 per cent in the South-east.

The figures also show that within every region there are rich and poor counties and it is certainly not the case that every southern county is richer than every one in the North.

The county figures, which apply to 1984, show that two Scottish regions — Lothian and Borders, and Grampian — are among the richest 10, although Grampian has probably slipped down the list since the statistics were compiled because of the decline of North Sea oil activity.

Other rich counties include Cheshire in the North-west, Leicestershire in the East Midlands and South Glamorgan in Wales.

There are also some surprising inclusions in the list of the poorest 10 counties, notably Kent and East Sussex, both with a per capita gross domestic product of only just over half the Greater London figure.

The Central Statistical Office admits that those latter

figures are suspect, in that incomes are calculated according to an individual's place of work rather than residence. Thus, in the South-east, where a large number of people commute to central London, a substantial proportion of the income that should be attributed to Kent and Sussex is included in the Greater London figures.

Even so, the statistics highlight the same feature of prosperity differences in Britain which other studies have emphasized — namely that it can be misleading to talk in blanket terms of regional divides, because pockets of prosperity exist even in the poorest regions.

The latest figures also contain comparisons of consumer spending, by region rather than county, for 1986.

They show that the regions with the highest income per head tend to spend the lowest proportion of it on food and other necessities.

In the South-east, consumers' expenditure on food, drink and tobacco in 1986 was £1,051 per head, one of the highest sums in the United Kingdom. However, because of higher overall income levels, that accounted for only 21 per cent of total consumer spending in the region, against a national average of 25 per cent.

Consumer spending per head in 1986 ranged from £3,539 in Yorkshire and Humberside to £4,957 in the South-east.

COUNTIES: THE RICH AND THE POOR

TOP TEN		BOTTOM TEN	
County	GDP per head	County	GDP per head
Greater London	8,626	Kent	3,792
Grampian	5,924	W. Glamorgan	3,791
Cheshire	5,884	Northumberland	3,725
Cambridge	5,814	Corwall	3,688
Berkshire	5,195	Shropshire	3,688
South Glamorgan	5,069	Gwynedd	3,600
Wiltshire	4,928	Durham	3,560
Avon	4,871	East Sussex	3,550
Lothian/Borders	4,847	Northern Ireland	3,469
Leicester	4,846	Mid Glamorgan	3,248

Source: Economic Trends, January 1988, Central Statistical Office

Telecom may end talk line

By Michael Harsnell

British Telecom is poised to cancel its controversial Talkabout service after accusations that it places children in danger and allows them to run up big telephone bills without the knowledge of their parents.

Tight restrictions on the service, which allows eight strangers to join in a high-cost telephone conversation, were ordered yesterday by OfTel, the telecommunications industry watchdog.

However, British Telecom indicated that the terms of the restrictions would make it impossible to continue with the service, which attracts about 40 million calls a year, worth more than £10 million.

An OfTel investigation into

Talkabout found it had been used by children to spread obscene and racist language, organize drug trafficking, arrange blind dates and dramatically increase bills.

In a case last year, three teenage girls were lured to a man's flat where they spent the night and were shown pornographic videos.

Professor Bryan Carsberg, director general of OfTel, said the two-fold service for adults and teenagers should be available only with the permission of the paying telephone subscriber. He ordered that the cost of the service should be shown separately on the bill.

He said he had held talks with British Telecom, which

had asked for two weeks to consider its position.

If the company refuses to comply, OfTel will seek to amend its licence and impose restrictions.

Professor Carsberg said: "There have been cases of bills of several hundreds of pounds for people used to paying only £50 per quarter. The key to this must be what the customer wants, and I think it's right to remember that BT's customer is the person who pays the bill."

An opinion poll conducted by OfTel showed that 79 per cent of respondents thought the teenage service should be available only with the permission of the bill payer.

Army's superboot marches in



Equipment, new, soldiers for the use of, shown off by Colour Sergeant James Humphrey (Photograph: Chris Harris).

By Ronald Faux

The new army superboot, the "Rolls-Royce" of high-tech military footwear, was presented for public inspection at Chelsea Barracks, London, yesterday.

Once the squaddie's nightmare and a thing of blisters, trenchfoot and noise, the conventional Boot Combat High is being replaced on the battlefield by the redesigned Improved Boot Combat High Mark II.

The new boot is simple, infinitely comfortable and waterproof. It comes with a special sock that allows the foot to breathe, adding to the watertight quality, but is double the cost of the old boot which will in future be confined to use in barracks and on the parade ground.

The British soldier has a near honourable tradition of complaining about his footwear. Where other armies may march on their stomachs the British Army has marched on its complaining feet and boots have historically caused

more complaints than the fiercest panzer divisions of the Wehrmacht.

The old "ammunition boot" with leather sole and deerskin studs was replaced by a more flexible model with a durably moulded sole and separate puttees to provide better waterproofing. Then came the superboot.

Where it has been worn, the new boots have been highly praised. "The most critical squaddie who has pretty strong opinions in such matters has given very favourable reports. It has been a great success with everyone," an army spokesman said yesterday.

Soldiers are now test-jumping their new footwear across the Falklands, the ultimate trial which destroyed the Mark I version of the Improved Boots Combat High introduced at the time of the war.

The new boots are also undergoing field trials in Germany.

The Army said that on the open market the boots would cost £100 a pair

but they were only part of the new order.

Ergonomically designed, personal load-carrying equipment with webbing 15 per cent lighter when wet, a helmet of ballistic nylon giving twice the protection of the steel model that tested the cheerfulness of the average Tommy to the limit and a bayonet with incorporated bottle opener and wire cutters were among the innovations designed to make life less daunting in combat.

Colonel Brian Preston of the Royal Artillery, who has led the trials, said: "A soldier has to crawl through ditches, lie up in the rain, mountaineer at times, have oil and petrol spilled over his clothing and endure extremes of heat and cold. He suffers maximum clothing abuse."

The new look soldier will cost about £800 to kit out, excluding weaponry. One thing that has not changed is the rule that if he loses any piece of equipment, he will be "invited" to pay for it.

100mph cavalry charge up the M5

A Royal Marines officer said in court yesterday that he was part of an imaginary cavalry charge when he thundered up the M5 at speeds above 100 mph.

Major Christopher Gilding, aged 45, a careers and recruitment staff officer, told magistrates in Stroud, Gloucestershire, he was imbued with patriotic pride and being "economical with my concentration" as he shot up

the motorway to the rousing strains of Beethoven on his tape player.

He was listening to Wellington's Victory March, written to celebrate the Battle of Waterloo.

"Suddenly there was a bugle call and the thunder of hooves as the cavalry appeared," he said. "Quite simply I joined that cavalry charge."

and I gave my horse his head. It was certainly an error of judgement not to notice the police car behind me."

Major Gilding said he was driving back from the commando training centre in Devon to take part in Remembrance Day ceremonies in Birmingham. "I was thinking of the officers and men I remember who had laid down their lives."

The major, of East Budleigh Road, Budleigh Salterton, Devon, admitted driving on the motorway near Stroud at 101.5 mph in a Royal Navy Vauxhall Cavalier. He was banned from driving for seven days and fined £60.

Mr Keith Plested, the court chairman, confusing his battles, told Major Gilding: "This is the first occasion that we have ever heard a speeding offence likened to the Charge of the Light Brigade."

Portfolio

There were two winners in yesterday's £4,000 Portfolio Gold competition.

Mrs Margot Carne, a residential social worker from Chigwell, Essex, said she would use her £2,000 to help buy a car. "Since I'm a widow, I've been putting off getting a car until after my son gets through college next year. Now it looks as though I'll be able to buy a car a little sooner than I had planned," she said.

The other winner was Dr P.V. Rao, from Cherry Hinton, Cambridge.

Crash charge

A tanker driver involved in a motorway pile-up which killed 13 people is to be prosecuted next month for allegedly causing death by reckless driving. Two specimen summonses have been issued against David Paul Dawson, aged 24, of Bury, Greater Manchester, concerning an accident on the M61 at Walton-le-Dale.

Plea to spare arts in city cash limits

By Andrew Billen

The Arts Council is to urge the Government to exempt inner-city arts projects from local authority spending restraints because it believes the arts play a central role in urban regeneration, attracting business, tourism and jobs.

Under the plan, announced yesterday as part of the Arts Council's inner-city initiative, authorities spending cash on the arts would earn credits to be set against rate-capping and capital spending limits.

The Arts Council's policy paper, *An Urban Renaissance*, marks the beginning of a campaign for greater co-operation between the public and private sectors and for the Government to include more arts projects in Enterprise, Alliances and Manpower Services courses.

The council also wants to establish a formal liaison process between urban development corporations and regional arts authorities, although not the national planning unit inside the Office of Arts and Libraries called for in a separate report last week.

Sir William Rees-Mogg, chairman of the Arts Council, compared the council's role to that of the Roman emperor

Augustus. "I suppose he could be seen as leading a national awareness campaign too, although he had the help of Virgil and Horace."

One policy not unveiled yesterday, but due to be discussed by the council next month, is a "per cent for art" policy, modelled on the United States where 21 states insist that a proportion of capital expenditure on new buildings should be devoted to arts provision.

Already Glasgow and Edinburgh city councils, Lewisham Borough Council and Oxfordshire County Council have adopted the policy in principle and are working out how to implement it.

Although the Arts Council is not confident of gaining national legislation along similar lines, it is likely to press companies and councils at least to adopt voluntary planning guidelines.

Mr Trevor Vibert, director of Greater London Arts, yesterday denounced a £150,000 cut (1.5 per cent) in his budget next year made by the Arts Council and criticized its forthcoming cuts in real terms to regional arts associations in urban areas.

Fire chief 'ignored rules to save lives'

By Rodney Cowton, Transport Correspondent

A senior fire officer probably saved lives in the King's Cross Underground station fire by ignoring normal procedures, the inquiry into the disaster, in which 31 people died, was told yesterday.

It was also told how Fireman Robert Moulton crawling through the blazing ticket hall, with water being sprayed on his back to protect him, discovered the body of Station Officer Colin Townsley, the only member of the fire brigade to die in the inferno.

Mr Gerald Clarkson, Chief Officer of the London Fire Brigade, who on Tuesday accepted that some of the brigade's actions, with hindsight, were "inappropriate", yesterday defended the actions of his men.

After completing evidence he said that he thought his men had not made any major errors, and none which affected the number of dead and injured.

He defended Assistant Divisional Officer Clifford Shore, who was in charge for about 20 minutes.

Smoke was pouring out of all exits and screaming and burnt passengers were emerging from the ticket hall.

Mr Shore decided not to evacuate his firemen, which was a contravention of standing orders, especially since he could reasonably have believed he had already lost officers.

Mr John Drinkwater, QC, for the brigade, asked Mr Clarkson: "Is it at least conceivable that there are people alive today thanks to that decision by Mr Shore?"

Said Mr Clarkson: "I think undoubtedly". He also thought "appropriate" the decision to attack the blaze in the ticket hall head-on from the top, rather than from below via the escalators.

A man and a woman had been brought out from a side room in the ticket hall area long after the flashover and it was unlikely that they would have been rescued in that way if his men had not attacked the fire head-on, he said.

Mr Desmond Fennell, QC, who is conducting the inquiry, said it was "apparent that a number of firemen and other members of the emergency services behaved with exemplary conduct and displayed heroic behaviour".

The inquiry continues today.

Mothballed car fetches record price

By Sarah Jane Checkland
Art Market Correspondent

The car which helped relaunch the Jaguar company after the war fetched a record price of £165,000 at Coys, the veteran car auctioneers of Kensington, on Tuesday night. It was twice the previous record for the model.

The story goes that on the declaration of war in 1939, Sir William Lyons, the founder of Jaguar, took a brand new 2½-litre SS100 and stored it until the end of the war.

Then, as a promotional exercise, he fitted it out with a new 3½-litre engine and entered it in the Monte Carlo Rally of 1947 and the Compé des Alpes the next year.

Estimated at £75,000, to £85,000, the car was sought by an American collector of Jaguars, bidding on the telephone, and an Englishman from Hertfordshire, who finally won.

The sale was one of four run by Coys each year and included some good prices for two pillar-box red Ferraris — £122,000 each for a 1964 250 Lusso two-door coupé, and a 1971 2-seater GT coupé. Both had been estimated at up to £100,000.

Meanwhile Sotheby's is to sell a 1912 Rolls Royce Silver Ghost two-seater balloon car similar to that used by the company's co-founder Charles Rolls, (estimate £70,000) and a 1938 Cadillac V16 used by Pope Pius XII in 1949 (estimate £100,000).

The star of the sale promises to be a 1928 68S Mercedes, estimated at up to £1 million. All three will come

up at a special car sale in Geneva on March 7, during the Motor Show there.

In London yesterday, Sotheby's was gratified at the success of its middle range Old Master paintings sale.

MacConal Mason and Johnny Van Houten each paid £26,400, the former for an attractive still life of flowers in a gilt vase (estimate £10,000 to £15,000) by a member of the circle of Jean-Baptiste Monoyer, and the latter for a painting of figures in a cathedral, by Pieter Neef the Younger (estimate £8,000 to £10,000).

The most surprising price was that of £17,600, paid by

Coburn against an estimate of £2,000 to £3,000, for an Allegory of Virtue said in the catalogue to be by "Circle of Theodor van Thulden".

With the British paintings in the afternoon, private buyers came to the fore, buying the top two lots — a painting of a Boat Hunt by the circle of Jan Wyck, which fetched £5,000 against an estimate of £3,000 to £4,000, and a capriccio landscape by Cornelius Warre Baupfild which sold for £4,620 (estimate £2,500 to £3,500).

Christie's concluded a two-day sale of British Empire stamps with a total of £160,799.

The top price of £3,250, just below estimate, was for an 1850 "Cottontree" stamp from British Guiana and a Falkland Islands Centenary issue dated 1933 sold for £1,100 against an estimate of £850.

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February 17 1988

PARLIAMENT

RUC to be investigated by mainland officer

Serious mistakes which had damaged the reputation of the RUC had been made in incidents in 1982, Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland said.

He was making a statement about the events after the incidents, in which six lives were lost and one person seriously wounded.

The Chief Constable of the RUC, he said, had invited the Chief Constable of Staffordshire, Mr Charles Kelly, to consider whether disciplinary charges should be brought against RUC officers of chief superintendent rank and below.

The Director of Public Prosecutions was already in discussion with the Chief Constable of the RUC and his deputy to ensure that when the police gave the DPP facts and information, they were always accurate and full, whether or not security interest was involved.

In his statement, Mr King said that Mr Kelly had appointed one of his assistant chief constables to help him in this task. This work had already started.

"The chief constable has already confirmed to me that he considers that any charges brought should be heard by a chief constable of another force. I have made clear to him my own concern for these disciplinary issues to be resolved as soon as possible."

Mr Sampson had also made observations on the role played by more senior officers. The Police Authority for Northern Ireland was the discipline authority for those ranks.

Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary, Sir Philip Myers, had therefore been the chairman of the police authority of these observations and was

ULSTER

making available relevant material for their attention.

He (Mr King) would keep the House informed of further developments on these matters.

The circumstances surrounding and following the incidents in 1982 had given rise to concern about procedures, responsibilities and control within the RUC.

In the light of Mr Stalker's interim conclusions and of Mr Sampson's further comments

I have made clear my concern that these disciplinary matters must be cleared up as soon as possible

upon them, a special inspection into these matters was carried out by Mr Charles McLachlan, one of Her Majesty's inspectors of constabulary. "I received his report on 25 January. I have since discussed his report with the chief constable."

"I am most anxious that there should be a better public understanding of the two major issues involved" (laughter).

The McLachlan report essentially covered two areas: first, how the Special Branch with its own crucially important and distinctive task, still remained an integral part of the overall force within the disciplines of mainstream policing.

The House would be aware of concerns expressed in 1982 that the Special Branch had become "a force within a force."

The second issue was how to ensure that there was a proper procedure for the investigation of all serious incidents and that

full and accurate information was given to the DPP.

These questions went to the heart of the problems faced by a police force using the normal processes of the law while fighting a vicious and ruthless terrorist enemy. Intelligence was the lifeblood of that fight.

Knowledge of even the procedures used by Special Branch and other RUC officers would not only make their task more difficult but would put lives at even greater risk (Conservative cheers).

That was why the security forces were understandably and rightly so committed to protecting intelligence. But the lessons of these incidents showed clearly that that desire must not operate outside effective accountability and control (Opposition cries of "And the law").

On the question of a force within a force, Mr McLachlan's report made clear that, although the Sampson-Stalker enquiry right focused on the situation in 1982 and immediately thereafter, matters were much improved shortly afterwards.

In 1983, at the request of the chief constable, a former very senior officer of the security service had carried out a special review into certain aspects of Special Branch management and its relationship with the CID. His recommendations were implemented in full.

The new rank of senior assistant chief constable had been introduced for the RUC in 1984. Since then, both the Special Branch and CID had answered to the same senior assistant chief constable so that their work had been fully co-ordinated.

Special Branch operations must be conducted in secrecy but they must not be carried out without the knowledge of the RUC command. Mr McLachlan

emphasized that the regional assistant chief constables were now aware of the operations of Special Branch within their respective areas.

In addition, he (Mr McLachlan) made specific recommendations designed to ensure the highest standard in the selection and training of Special Branch, the prevention of cross-specialization, the encouragement of cross-posting both within the RUC and with other police forces, and the integration of the branch with the other parts of the force.

The second major issue covered by Mr McLachlan concerned the vital need that serious incidents were thoroughly investigated.

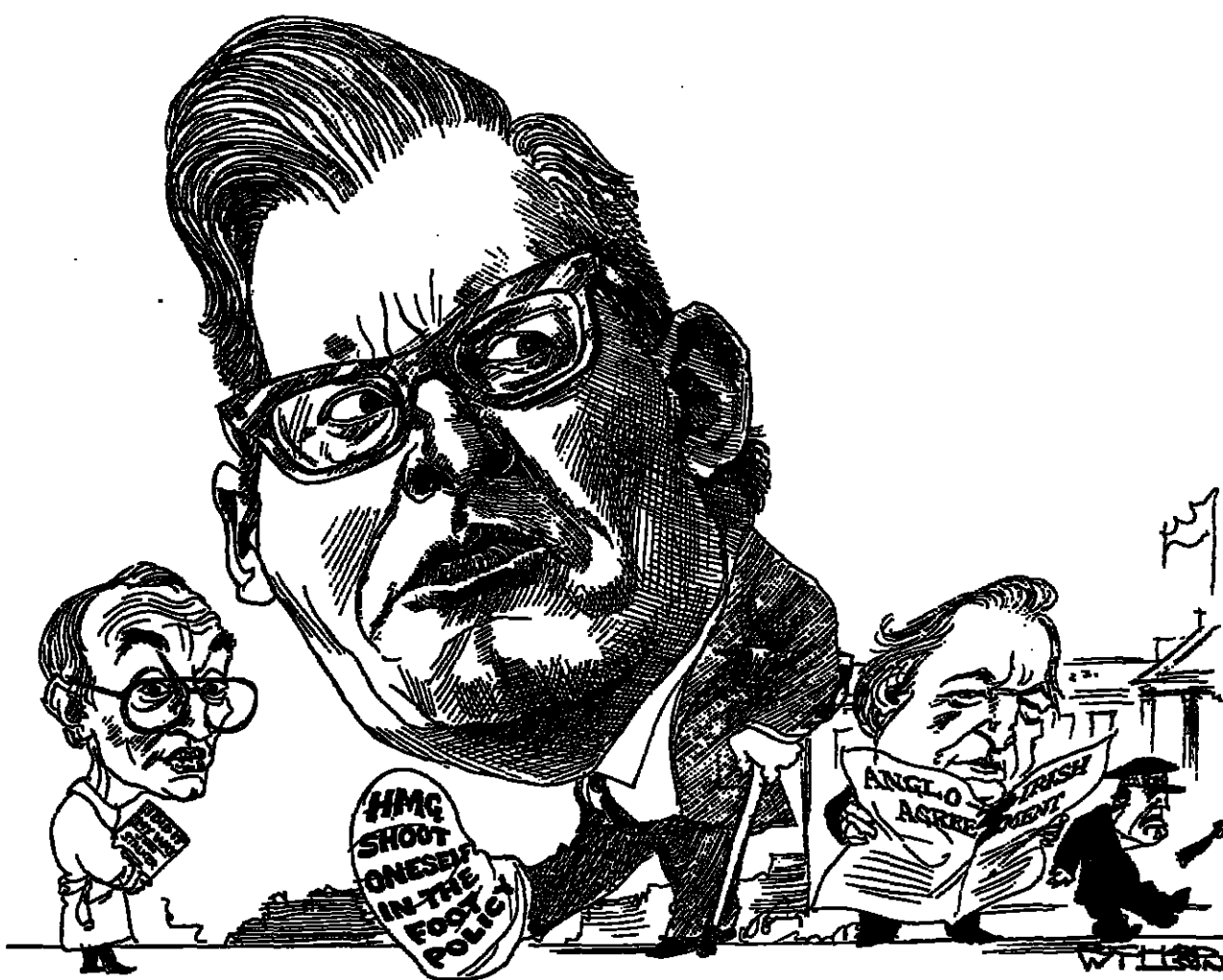
He now recommended that in controversial incidents involving RUC officers, the chief constable should consider whether an experienced assistant chief constable from another force should be appointed to lead the investigation; and that an experienced senior CID officer should attend and debriefing where facts had been used by the RUC and people killed or injured.

He also recommended improved arrangements at the scene of such incidents so that the forensic science, pathology and photographic resources available were used to best effect.

A first meeting had already been held between the DPP and the Chief Constable and deputy of the RUC to discuss safeguards to ensure that facts and information for the DPP were in all respects full and accurate, whether or not any security interest was involved. Discussions were proceeding.

The chief constable had implemented in full the recommendations of the 1983 special review.

Further changes had been made subsequently, including,



Mr Tom King, who had made, according to the Opposition, one of the gravest statements of the past 20 years

in particular, control of the CID and Special Branch under a single officer.

The chief constable had accepted in principle all Mr McLachlan's recommendations.

Mr King told MPs about an occasion, shortly before one of the incidents in 1982, when two RUC officers had been given approval to cross into the republic. He had advised Irish ministers at the time that the full circumstances of the incident were being investigated.

"I emphasized that the two officers who made the crossings

were in plain clothes, were unarmed and were in an unmarked car. As the chief constable said in the statement which he issued on April 7, 1984, the crossings were made for observation purposes only. There was no preplanned incursion nor is there any deliberate or authorized system of incursion."

"Nevertheless, it is fully accepted that it was wrong and regrettable that two RUC officers were permitted to enter the territory of the republic unannounced as part of an ongoing operation."

"It is the Government's intention that this should not happen again."

"These incidents of 1982 and the subsequent events illustrate sharply the acute difficulties faced by a parliamentary democracy and the police service in combating the evil of terrorism."

"This is a particular tragedy for a police force of the courage and professionalism of the RUC today, who have given ample evidence of their commitment to protecting the whole community from violence from whatever extreme it may come."

Lord Sanderson of Bowden, Minister of State, Scottish Office, said that Scotland's inheritance was subject to increasing pressures for change. There were legitimate demands for the needs of housing, industry, forestry or simply space for recreation. The Government's aim was to seek a balance acceptable to all, including those who lived in the Scottish countryside.

It was important that co-operation should develop between the Nature Conservancy Council in Scotland and farmers and crofters. Local sensitivities must be understood.

The Forestry Commission had a statutory duty to seek to achieve a reasonable balance between the needs of forestry and conservation. He believed that today's foresters were now realizing the importance of conservation.

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Threat of a poll tax revolt

Mr Dennis Canavan (Falkirk West, Lab) said during question time that he and many others would initially refuse to register for the poll tax and refuse to pay it, as well as encouraging as many people as possible to do likewise, so that the vicious proposals would have to be scrapped.

He said that the regional assessor for Fife had said that if a sufficient number of people refused to register, that would "choke up the works". The Prime Minister had also made the helpful statement that failure to register on the poll-tax register would not in any way affect one's right to vote.

Mr Christopher Chope, Under Secretary of State for the Environment, advised Mr Canavan to have a word with Mr Neil Kinnock, Leader of the Opposition, about his remarks.

He said that the Government's policy was such that most people would register and, if they did not do so, they would be subject to penalties, so it would not be worth their while.

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Forest 'vandalism' angers peer

The afforestation of the Flow Country of Caithness and Sutherland was "one of the great acts of vandalism of the late twentieth century", Lord McIntosh of Haringey, Opposition spokesman on the environment, told peers.

He said that Labour Party policy was that the absurd, grotesque tax reliefs that had grown up for private forestry must be abolished.

If the afforestation problem in Scotland and, to some extent, in other areas, was to be tackled, the solution lay in a combination of stick and carrot. But that taxpayers should spend £30 million a year for private investment in forestry was absurd.

Speaking during debate on the 1986-87 report of the Nature Conservancy Council, he said that it was not acceptable that those involved in this afforestation should be able to choose between different tax schedules to benefit from their investment.

The result of the tax system was that most forestry was a tax investment and not a tree investment.

Lord Sanderson of Bowden, Minister of State, Scottish Office, said that Scotland's inheritance was subject to increasing pressures for change. There were legitimate demands for the needs of housing, industry, forestry or simply space for recreation. The Government's aim was to seek a balance acceptable to all, including those who lived in the Scottish countryside.

It was important that co-operation should develop between the Nature Conservancy Council in Scotland and farmers and crofters. Local sensitivities must be understood.

The Forestry Commission had a statutory duty to seek to achieve a reasonable balance between the needs of forestry and conservation. He believed that today's foresters were now realizing the importance of conservation.

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Provisionals will be the only victors

The only victor in the situation was the Provisional IRA, Mr Kevin McNamara, Opposition spokesman on Northern Ireland, said.

Mr King's statement had been one of the most grave of the past 20 years and was an attempt to staunch the wounds of an enormous casualty list, which included the rule of law, the RUC, the Anglo-Irish agreement, and Mr King himself.

The statement had included the most amazing rehabilitation of John Stalker.

The Government had confirmed every item, incident and finding which he referred to in his autobiography, and found it necessary to implement his recommendations.

Mr King was attempting to staunch the wounds of an enormous casualty list that had emerged since the Attorney General's statement.

The first casualty was the rule of law. The scales were weighted against the innocent in Northern Ireland.

The second casualty was the

RUC. All they had achieved by bravery and honour had been put at risk by the statements of the Attorney General and Mr King.

The third casualty was the Anglo-Irish Agreement. The spirit of trust between both countries had been fatally damaged.

The final casualty was Mr King. "I did not know when I heard the statement last week whether to feel pity or contempt for what happened to him or contempt for the fact that he allowed it to happen."

The new procedures, new structures of command, none of them would help at all unless there was confidence in the men who operated it. What was the time scale for the Chief Constable's inquiries?

What was the rank of the officers who had been referred to the police authority for disciplinary proceedings and found guilty? Could Mr King explain the strange account of the incursion into the republic? Two RUC officers

ULSTER



Mr McNamara: Casualty list is enormous

were given approval to cross the border: no pre-planned incursion but it was part of an on-going operation. What sort of sobriquet was that?

He had given the list of casualties. There was one victim. That was the Provisional IRA. The only victor out of this.

Mr King said that Mr McNamara had referred to the rehabilitation of Mr Stalker. There had been people, anxious to peddle stories of conspiracy, who had implied that Mr King did not have the work of Mr Stalker available for Mr Sampson.

"I have seen the full copy of Mr Stalker's draft final report on these matters and his recommendations that fall within my responsibility," Mr Sampson commented on them and Mr McLachlan likewise had full access.

Certainly some recommendations had flowed directly from Mr Stalker's work and recommendations.

It would be for Mr Kelly to decide when charges should be brought forward. He had already started his work and delay was in no one's interests. I hope we will have a very early resolution."

He was under no illusions about the strength of feeling of the Irish Government. The

Haughey call for best possible border security

By John Cooney

Mr Charles Haughey, Prime Minister of the Irish Republic, in an important speech on Anglo-Irish relations, said yesterday that cross-border security along the border with Northern Ireland should remain as "effective as possible."

Speaking in a full-day session in the Dail on the crisis over the shoot-to-kill affair, Mr Haughey said that only "the men of violence" stood to gain from anything less than the maximum co-operation between the two police forces.

He said that the Dublin Government acknowledged that in the security area its priority objectives were the protection of its own security and, to the

utmost of its ability, the protection of the security of all the people of Northern Ireland.

Mr Haughey agreed that the British Government had no intention of publishing the Stalker-Sampson report into the alleged shoot-to-kill policy of the RUC in 1982. He also told the Dail that the British Government had refused to reconsider its decision not to publish the report.

Mr Haughey also confirmed that the British Government had refused his request for the release of the "Birmingham Six" bombers. On those matters of grave concern to the Irish Government, no progress has

been made and Anglo-Irish relations had reached an impasse on the issues.

But he added that, overall, Anglo-Irish relations were not at an impasse. He noted the promise of the British Government to take possible disciplinary action against RUC officers and to make changes in the structure and control of the RUC.

Mr Haughey suggested that the two governments could and must make progress on establishing the conditions for the elimination in Northern Ireland of job discrimination against Roman Catholics.

He said the Irish Government was convinced that confidence had been seriously eroded in its relations with the

British Government because the Attorney General, Sir Patrick Finlay, had not given advance notice of the decision not to prosecute the RUC officers.

Specifically, he accused Sir Patrick of not abiding by the procedures laid down in the Irish Government's recent extradition procedures.

That had produced "a quite serious" situation in which extradition would not be possible unless Sir Patrick respected the safeguards for Irish citizens built into the legislation.

On the Home Secretary's intention to make the Prevention of Terrorism Act permanent, Mr Haughey told the Dail that his Government would have an input into the new

legislation before its implementation next year.

But he added: "It should be realized that, whatever the purposes of this legislation, its implementation has been discriminatory and insensitive and has caused widespread resentment among law-abiding Irish people who rightly or wrongly view it as racist in its operation."

Mr Haughey said that the events leading to the Stalker-Sampson report and the removal of Mr John Stalker, the former deputy chief constable of Greater Manchester, from his inquiries into the shoot-to-kill allegations had "cast a shadow over the reputation of the RUC from some time past."

'Labour Party propaganda' Onslaught on student union

By Nicholas Wood, Political Correspondent

The National Union of Students has been branded a "Labour Party propaganda machine" after the leak of a letter from Labour student leaders to the party's MPs.

The accusation came from Dr John Marks, a member of the Conservative-Collegiate Forum, and was backed by Mr Timothy Janman, a Tory MP who is spearheading a campaign to end the so-called NUS closed shop.

By yesterday, more than 200 Conservative backbenchers had signed Mr Janman's early day motion calling for action by the Secretary of State for Education.

Mr Janman intends to move an amendment to the Education Reform Bill at report stage next month outlawing automatic membership of the national union.

The letter from Mr Neil Usher, chairman of the National Organization of Labour Students, and Mr Darren Murphy, its treasurer, reminds MPs that Labour has been in control of the NUS for six years.

"Throughout that time we have sought to modernize and politicize the student movement and consistently have put forward the case for democratic socialism and the cause of Labour."

Football violence warning

Mr David Evans (Welwyn Hatfield, C) said that it was up to the football authorities to put their house in order.

Mr Ridley: We would like to see football put its own house in order and continue to improve its record of crowd control, violence and hooliganism. If it does not it may be very difficult for the Government not to take action.

IRA threat is still real

The following report of a Commons debate on the annual renewal of the Prevention of Terrorism Act appeared in later editions yesterday.

The Labour Party was accused by Mr Douglas Hogg, Under Secretary of State at the Home Office, of wishing to legalize membership of the IRA and the Irish National Liberation Army.

An angry debate on the annual renewal of the Act, Mr Hogg said that if they were to defeat the renewal motion, Labour would also make it legal to raise money for the terrorist organizations.

The motion was carried by 261 votes to 162 - Government majority, 99.

Mr Douglas Hogg, Home Secretary, moving approval of the Order, said that its effect would be to renew the 1984 Act for a further 12 months from March 22.

There remained a sombre threat of terrorism against the citizens of this country, he said. That arose not just out of the affairs of Northern Ireland, but from the Middle East and the sub-continent.

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There was no doubt that the Provisional IRA wished to plan further death and destruction.

The threat from international terrorism could not be ignored. The original Act had not covered that aspect of the

problem, but the world had changed for the worse since then.

He had asked Lord Colville of Culross to conduct an independent review of the operation of the Act.

Television in the 1990s

Hurd unhappy with radical European broadcasting plan

By Richard Evans, Media Editor

The Government is embroiled in an increasingly fierce disagreement with other European countries over what should — and should not — be allowed to appear on television, it was disclosed yesterday.

Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, admitted he was "unhappy" with several proposals being considered by the Council of Europe and the EEC, aimed at achieving regulation of television services across Europe.

Both organizations are preparing agreements for a free flow of programmes across frontiers, ensuring minimum standards of content and advertising.

However, Mr Hurd, addressing the *Financial Times* cable and satellite television conference in London, said a number of the proposals "could cause difficulty for Britain".

His main concern centres on a proposal to reduce television advertising, which could cost ITV companies hundreds of millions of pounds.

Some countries want the Council of Europe's convention to prevent advertise-

ments appearing on programmes of less than 45 minutes and to allow only one commercial break during feature films.

"There is pressure for a complete ban on tobacco advertising and some countries would like to extend this to alcohol. We are also concerned at the approach being taken towards sponsorship," Mr Hurd said.

"To limit the extent to which programmes could be interrupted would undoubtedly have serious implications for the presentation and scheduling of broadcast advertising in this country."

The proposed EEC directive could also impose restrictions on broadcasting in the UK, Mr Hurd said.

Ministers are worried by commission proposals on programme content. Thirty per cent of programmes, rising to 60 per cent after three years, would have to be devoted to "community works".

"These are real difficulties. It is in nobody's interest to have a directive which restricts rather than helps the broadcasting industry," Mr Hurd said.

Mr Tim Renton, Minister

of State at the Home Office, will discuss the proposals with European broadcasting ministers in Vienna in April.

In a later speech at the London conference, Mr Michael Checkland, the BBC's director-general, told delegates that the BBC would like to compete with the Independent Broadcasting Authority to transmit television services from any new "terrestrial" channel.

His proposal, which came only minutes after the Home Secretary had side-stepped detailed questions about the future role of the IBA, prompted speculation about widespread changes in television transmission in the next decade.

The IBA currently has a statutory duty to provide transmission facilities for all the commercial television stations, while the BBC transmits its own services.

The two bodies share many facilities, such as transmitting masts.

Mr Checkland is convinced that a fifth channel, financed by advertising or subscription, is likely to be in operation by 1992.

"If terrestrial channels are permitted to make their own transmission arrangements, they could do worse than invite the BBC to tender," he said. "We have confidence in the quality and cost-effectiveness of our transmitter services."

"We expect those services to operate in an increasingly competitive market but we believe transmission in the UK will be most efficient if operators like ourselves can compete in the market place."

Mr Hurd, who recently deprived the IBA of its radio regulatory role, said television's existing legislative and regulatory structure was "showing cracks".

Asked if he was hinting at further changes to the IBA, the Home Secretary said only: "I envisage an important continuing role for the IBA."

● The BBC hopes to boost its finances by offering new cable and satellite stations use of its 150,000 video tapes and 500,000 cans of film.

The corporation has met unions representing actors, writers and musicians, to secure terms for UK cable and satellite stations dealing with the holders of film rights.

Stone warriors returning to the castle



Mr Neil Simmonds giving the finishing touches to his sculpting of Edward III (left) while Mr Phil Mardin does the same for the effigy of Edward's son, the Black Prince. The effigies will replace the badly weathered, late eighteenth century originals at Windsor Castle (Photograph: Peter Trievnor).

Long-term unemployed

Drive against benefit abuse

By John Spicer, Employment Affairs Correspondent

A big cut in the unemployment figure of 2.7 million is expected in the coming months as the Government increases its efforts to get the long-term jobless back to work.

In the wake of Tuesday's White Paper outlining the new £1.4 billion adult training scheme, other moves are in hand that could remove between 100,000 and 200,000 from the total of people claiming unemployment benefit. If successful, savings could be around £70 million.

The White Paper gave details of plans to provide training places for 600,000 a year but it also gave the results of a survey into the scale of alleged abuse in the system. The Government plans to question and interview unemployed people every six months.

From April, everyone drawing unemployment benefit will be called to a "restart" interview. Before it, they will

have to fill in a detailed questionnaire about their qualifications and experience, the sort of job they have been looking for and the help they are seeking to return to work.

In the past 18 months, the Department of Employment has found that consistently more than 10 per cent of claimants sent a letter inviting them to attend a Jobcentre interview have stopped claiming benefit rather than attend.

If that remains the case, the new searching questionnaire and the twice yearly interviews are expected to have a widespread effect. A survey commissioned by the Department of Employment last Spring among 60,000 households, showed that there was a substantial number of benefit claimants who were not available for work, or were already in some form of employment.

The survey found that about 520,000 claimants said they were not available to start

£1.8m estate acquired as sanctuary for birds

By John Young

The largest land purchase ever made in Europe by a voluntary conservation body, and one of international importance, is announced today by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.

The National Heritage Memorial Fund and the Nature Conservancy Council have promised up to £1 million towards the £1,800,000 cost of the spectacular Abernethy Forest Estate in the Scottish Highlands. An appeal will be launched for the balance.

The 30-square mile estate rises through heather moorland to one of Britain's highest mountains, Cairngorm, 4,084 ft, and contains 4,000 acres of ancient Caledonian Pine forest — the largest remaining fragment of the great forest which once covered much of the highlands, more than 99 per cent of which has been destroyed over the past 500 years.

The society's long-term aim is to encourage regeneration of

the pine woods, up to the natural tree line, something rarely seen in Britain nowadays. That would double their size and benefit the unique bird life of the area, which includes the capercaillie, the crested tit and the Scottish crossbill, a species found nowhere else in the world.

Birds of prey such as the peregrine falcon and the golden eagle breed on the estate and hunt their quarry on the high moorland. It is also home to species normally associated with the Arctic.

The new reserve borders two other RSPB reserves, Loch Garten, famed for its nesting ospreys, and Upper Glen Avon, bringing the total under protection to nearly 30,000 acres. It is the single most expensive purchase ever made by the society and brings the total number of reserves it owns or manages in Britain to 120, of which 42 are in Scotland.

Falklands verdict is quashed

An inquest verdict that Lance-Corporal Simon Cockton, an army helicopter pilot, died as a result of enemy action while serving in the Falklands campaign was quashed by the High Court yesterday.

Lord Justice Gidwell, sitting with Mr Justice French, said that since the *Hampshire* inquest in December 1982, new evidence had disclosed that the Gazelle helicopter was shot down by a Royal Navy vessel whose crew mistook it for an Argentine aircraft.

Four men died when the helicopter was hit by a Sea Dart missile fired from HMS Cardiff on June 6, 1982.

The judge said the true situation did not come to light until a board of inquiry was set up by the Ministry of Defence. The evidence was not available at the inquest. A fresh inquest will be held, if necessary.

The unopposed application for the verdict to be set aside, was made by Mrs Winifred Cockton, the dead pilot's mother, of Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire.

Information technology

US-Japan monopoly threat

By Martha Fletcher, Political Reporter

American and Japanese manufacturers will monopolise the multi-billion pound European market for information technology after 1992 unless EEC governments take coordinated action now, MPs were told yesterday.

Domination by the United States and Japan would have serious political, financial and military implications for all of Western Europe, Mr Peter Bonfield, chairman of ICL, Britain's largest information technology (IT) company, told the House of Commons trade and industry committee.

He said his company believed firmly in standing on its own feet but the British Government could not simply rely on market forces in the face of present American and Japanese practices, particularly with the imminent creation of a single, unrestricted European market within four years.

ICL was competing on an uneven pitch. "We need help to make sure the playing fields remain flat," Mr Bonfield said.

In a written memorandum to the committee, ICL pointed

to hidden support given by certain European states to their "national champions" and to the enormous support given by the American and Japanese governments to their companies in the form of research and development investment and procurement policy.

The British Government meanwhile vied with EEC countries to give grants to huge foreign companies to set up in Britain, undermining the ability of domestic manufacturers to compete on equal terms.

It had commendably encouraged competition in its public purchasing policies but had failed to demand reciprocal openness from other European governments. Its "value-for-money" policy emphasized cheapness to the detriment of technical innovation.

With other EEC governments, it concentrated support on pre-competitive research, and European information technology companies had made some significant discoveries. However, they were less good at developing and

marketing the discoveries.

The Government should amend the educational system to concentrate more on developing IT skills.

A particular problem facing IT companies was the use of "proprietary standards" by the largest manufacturers which "locked" customers into buying their hardware when they expanded their systems. Governments could use their purchasing power to insist on "open" standards.

The British Government was developing an "open standards" purchasing policy but it was not mandatory and the EEC had no such policy.

ICL said that to prevent "foreign ownership of a key enabling industry" the Government had to make a British-controlled IT industry a specific objective, and support that by developing a European-wide strategy ensuring genuinely open internal and external competition.

If action was not taken soon, the memorandum said, control of the industry "will slip inexorably into the hands of the US and Japanese".

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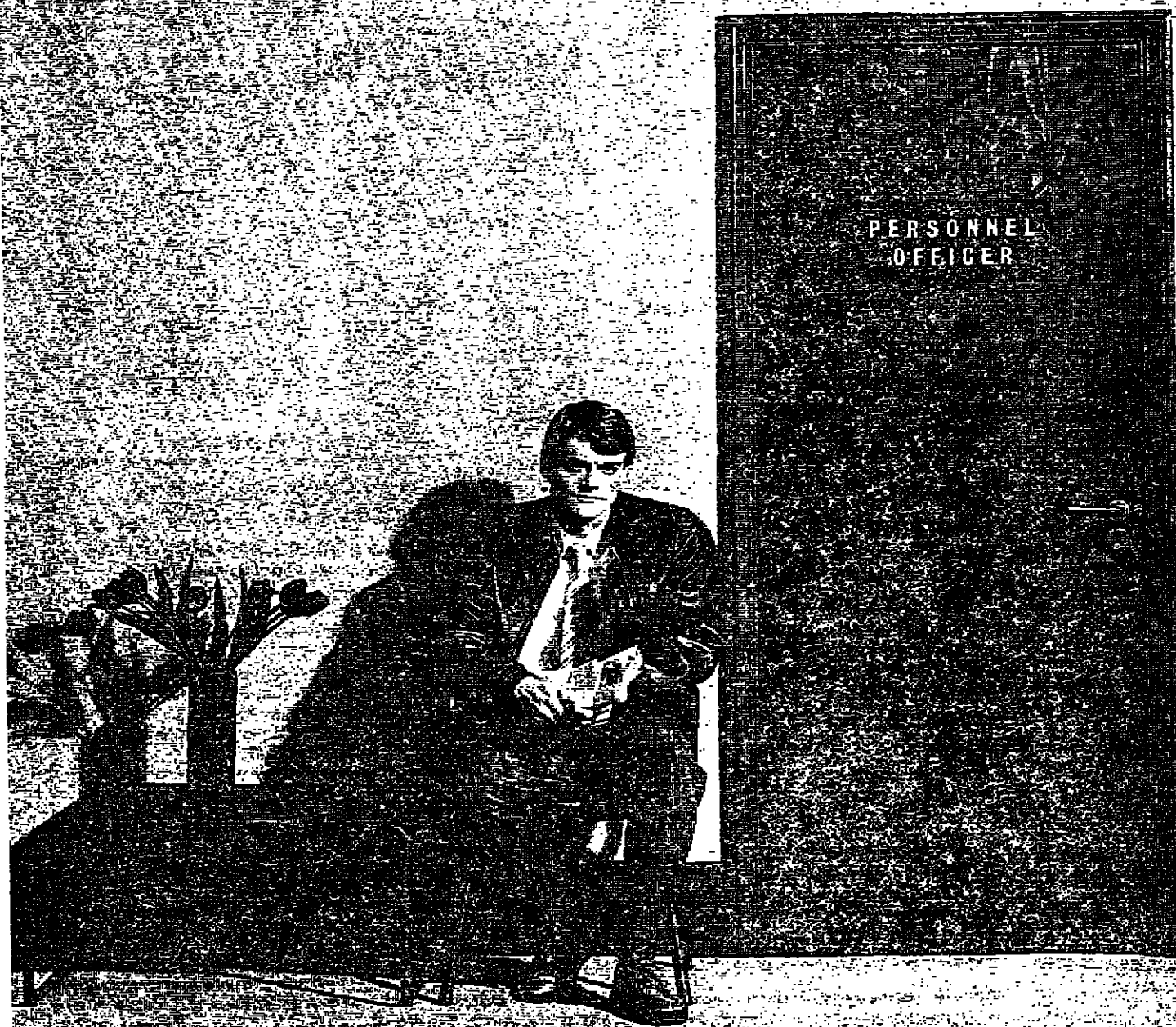
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**HE'S KEEN.
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**DOES IT MATTER
IF HE'S
ALSO UNEMPLOYED?**



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Even at a time when unemployment is falling.

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WORLD ROUNDUP

EEC may write off £1bn debts

European Community aid officials are investigating methods of writing off £1 billion debts owed by the Third World to the Community's development fund, in what would amount to a major initiative in the international debt crisis (Paul Valley writes). Lord Plumb, President of the European Parliament, said yesterday: "It is being looked at very seriously. I think it will be done, and probably this year."

The plan comes after action by the British Government, which, under the initiative for African debt relief proposed last year by the Chancellor, Mr Nigel Lawson, has written off past loans into grants. The significance of the EEC plan is that it would establish a precedent for other multilateral institutions, such as the World Bank.

Announcing the calling of an international conference of aid, trade and debt experts from the United States, Soviet Union, Europe and Japan, Lord Plumb said that the EEC had an important leadership role to play.

Envoy explains

Jerusalem — The Norwegian Ambassador to Israel, Mr Torleiv Anda, a Buchenwald survivor, was summoned to the Foreign Ministry yesterday to explain reports that he had publicly compared the German occupation of Norway to the Israeli occupation of the territories (Ian Murray writes).

After seeing Mr Yossi Beilin, the political director-general of the Foreign Ministry, Mr Anda claimed he had never meant to make a comparison. He said mis-translations of his remarks might have contributed to the misunderstanding.

● **Army killing:** A Palestinian was shot and killed and at least three others were wounded by an Israeli Army officer in a clash at Shuyukh on the West Bank.

Rifles seized on ship

Rome — About 1,000 brand new assault rifles have been seized by Italian police on board a Pakistani merchant ship in the port of Salerno (A Correspondent writes). Mr Malik Iftikhar, Pakistani captain of the 12,500-ton Mooltan, and the 38 crew members are being held for questioning.

The Mooltan left Pakistan on January 15 for north and central America, and police discovered the crates of weapons underneath a number of empty containers. The arms were described in the ship's documents as "spare parts" destined for the Mexican Government.

Soweto clashes

Johannesburg — At least three people were reported to have been shot to death yesterday in police clashes with residents protesting over the eviction of community tenants for not paying rent (Michael Hornsby writes).

Witnesses said the clashes occurred when more than 1,000 angry residents gathered outside the offices of the Soweto town council. The police admitted using tear gas and shotguns, but denied that anybody had been shot. Army and police vehicles were still patrolling the area late yesterday, and the atmosphere was tense.

Appeal to Pyongyang

New York (Reuter) — South Korea has appealed to communist North Korea for reconciliation, despite the November incident in which one of its airliners was destroyed, allegedly by North Korean agents. "Let us transform the tragedy into a renewal and reaffirmation of our common nationhood," South Korea's Foreign Minister, Yoo Kwang-soo Choi, said yesterday in opening the UN Security Council debate on the bombing.

Mr Pak Gil Yon, the North Korean delegate, repeated his Government's denial of involvement in the incident.

German carnival costs

Lent frolics leave hangover of havoc

West Germans yesterday were counting the cost in deaths, injuries, broken marriages and confiscated driving licences of six days and late nights of wild Carnival frolics in packed pubs and beer halls.

Millions began a seven-week Lenten hangover after what is known as *Karneval* in the Rhineland, and *Fasching* in the south. Something like Rio with overcoats on, it's about beer, bands, fancy dress, red noses, street parades and kiss-me-quick — or more.

Although the binge is not as explosive as in Rio, the volatile mixture is often dangerous to life, limb, marital health and permission to drive. Figures for divorce suits based on over-the-top interpretations of Carnival's traditional sexual licence will not be available for some time, but they always give divorce lawyers extra business.

Almost 1,100 driving licences were impounded in the Rhineland and Ruhr, and confiscations nationwide were estimated yesterday at 5,000.

The dead and injured included a boy, aged three, who was run over by a float in a parade in Mainz, and a young American soldier critically hurt by another float in Fulda.

A woman aged 24 was raped and murdered in Cologne, and in Völklingen, in Saarland, a woman aged 37 was savagely beaten and sexually assaulted allegedly by a man she had met at a *Fasching* ball.

Her alleged attacker, a man from Saarland who lives in England, was arrested by British police on Tuesday when he arrived on a ferry at Harwich.

Death sentence

Athens — An Englishman whose fingerprints enabled him to establish his true identity while he was in jail in Greece on a minor theft charge under an assumed name was found guilty of murder and sentenced to death by the Salonika Criminal Court last night (Mario Modiano writes).

Philip Samuel Portington, aged 37, from Sandiacre, near Nottingham, was found guilty of killing Stephen Frederick Henderson, of Newcastle, after having robbed him during a camping trip in north-western Greece. The court also sentenced him to 10 years for robbery.

Mr Henderson was stabbed in the chest, hit over the head with a cement block, and strangled with his scarf in July 1985.

Defeated Dole accuses Vice-President of lying

Feud flares again as Bush triumphs

From Michael Binyon, Nashua

Vice-President George Bush has revitalized his floundering campaign with a convincing victory in the New Hampshire primary. But his feud with Senator Robert Dole — whom he beat by 38 to 29 per cent — flared again with Mr Dole bitterly accusing him of lying.

The Kansas senator, who had pulled ahead of Mr Bush in pre-election opinion polls,

falselyhood and George Bush knows it. I think that says something about the character of the candidate," he said.

Mr Bush would not comment. But he was plainly relieved by his comfortable win after an agonizing week which saw his large lead in the polls evaporate.

Jubilant, he told cheering supporters on Tuesday night: "I feel I have a lot in common with Mark Twain: reports of my death were greatly exaggerated." He said he was now going on to the South, "where we will rise again".

His last-minute recovery from what would have been a mortal political blow was attributed to three things: the endorsement of former Senator Barry Goldwater, an important symbol for conservative Republicans; his strenuous, hands-on campaigning, coupled with aggressive television advertising; and a burst of effort by worried supporters, coordinated by the popular Governor of New Hampshire, Mr John Sununu, who had endorsed Mr Bush.

The Dole camp, however, took cheer in the senator's good showing in a state where he saw little hope only a month ago. "This is one step along the road," said Senator Dole. "It makes the climb a little steeper, but it doesn't make it impossible."

His staff forecast that the defeat will make him more aggressive in going after Mr Bush. It will clearly be a rough fight all the way to the convention in August.

Mr Jack Kemp, who came third with 13 per cent, was claiming a moral victory yesterday, saying this showed him to be the standard-bearer for the conservative wing of the party. He badly needed to do well in order to stay solvent and viable.

He denied that he was advocating a \$10-a-barrel oil import fee. "The ad is a

candidate will have to run well in November if he is to win. It had been taken for granted that Mr Dukakis would win New Hampshire because he comes from the neighbouring state of Massachusetts. He still has to show that he is capable of winning on neutral territory.

But Mr Dukakis has more money and a better organization than any other Democrat, and is himself at least a capable campaigner.

But if the final choice does lie between Mr Bush and Mr Dukakis, how comforting a prospect is this for the United States and for the outside world? Does either have the makings of an effective President?

My guess is that Mr Bush would be a better President than he is a candidate. He has wide experience of govern-

ment, and certainly has greater experience of international affairs than any other candidate. He has the gift of encouraging an easy atmosphere around him in which people of ability are happy to work.

These handicaps might continue to hurt him if he became President, especially in his dealings with Congress. But at least he would enter the White House well prepared, conscientious and with a better knowledge of what the job entails than anyone elected since President Nixon.

Mr Dukakis, by contrast, would take up the office with no direct experience of national, and still less of international, affairs. To most people outside the United

States, and to a great many people inside, he is still an unknown figure.

There is a danger, I believe, of underestimating him by comparing him with Mr Reagan rather than judging him by the standards of 1988. He is not a spellbinding communicator.

Perhaps because he is short and slight, he lacks as yet the presence of a President. But he is comfortable with people on the campaign trail and in serious conversation. Above all, he has the record and style of a capable manager of government business.

I have been struck by my various conversations with him by how often he focuses on the best way of getting something done. He has the inclination of a traditional liberal Democrat. But I suspect that nowadays, after his years of

denied by the White House and the Pentagon and attacked by fellow Republicans as irresponsible and scare-mongering.

On the Democratic side, Governor Michael Dukakis won a handsome victory, finishing a record-breaking 17 points ahead of Congressman

George Bush looking jubilant as New Hampshire's voters put him back on the winning trail.

Mr Pete du Pont, who won 10 per cent, is in a weak position now after two poor results, but he appeared undaunted, insisted he had enough money, and said he would continue his fight.

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Richard Gephardt, who came second with 20 per cent of the vote. The Massachusetts Governor, a familiar figure here, had been expected to win, but the size of his majority, among all groups and classes of Democrats, gave him an important boost.

Mr Gephardt also celebrated what his camp portrayed as a victory in coming second. Polls showed his protectionist message did not play well here. But after his Iowa win he is becoming better known.

His main opponent there will be Senator Albert Gore, who virtually ignored New Hampshire, scoring 7 per cent of the vote, just behind Mr Jesse Jackson, who won a respectable 8 per cent in a state with almost no blacks. Mr Jackson, who expects to do well among blacks in his southern base, said of his frugal campaign here: "Poor campaign, rich message."

For Senator Paul Simon, deeply in debt after a bitter television fight with Mr Gephardt, third place was a disappointment. The standard-bearer of old-fashioned liberalism, he did well among young, well-educated Democrats. He, too, promised to carry on, but needs a large infusion of cash to remain viable.

Mr Bruce Babbitt, who won only 5 per cent, virtually announced his withdrawal. He is \$200,000 in debt, and said there came a point "to say you had

Europe warned there must be no back-tracking on modernization

Thatcher tells Nato better nuclear arms are essential

Mrs Thatcher gave the clearest signals to the rest of Nato yesterday that there must be no back-tracking over a decision "taken five years ago" to modernize all nuclear weapons deployed in Europe.

With only two weeks to go before a crucial Nato summit that will pull together the alliance's nuclear and conventional strategy, Mrs Thatcher yesterday set herself up as the principal advocate of modernization.

"You don't deter with anything obsolescent," she said after addressing the 16 permanent representatives at Nato in Brussels. She later went to Shape (Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe) in Mons, Nato's military headquarters.

Nato political directors are already drawing up provisional texts of the communiqué that will be agreed by government leaders after the summit on March 2 and 3, and there has been strong backing from the German side for any clause which hints of West Germany's willingness to take a tougher "national interests" line in talks with President Reagan and other American leaders on new East-West disarmament moves (John England writes).

Early drafts included, on West German insistence, references to these short-range missiles (with a range of less than 300 miles) and the need to include them in future arms control negotiations with the Soviet Union, whereas Mrs Thatcher, as she made abundantly clear in Brussels yesterday, not only wants to keep them off the negotiating table

until the Russians have agreed to make significant cuts in their conventional forces and to ban chemical weapons, but also insists that they should be modernized.

She said: "You don't, as an alliance, put your troops in the field with weapons less good than those they face. Modernization is a part of deterrence, it is a part of defence. It is totally and utterly absurd to separate out the modernization of nuclear weaponry from the modernization of anything else."

Once the negotiations on conventional and chemical weapons had been concluded, she said, "we can return to other nuclear weapons".

With an eye to the summit next month, Mrs Thatcher said: "Political unity and resolutions are as important as

military strength. You must have the resolve."

But she was careful not to aim any criticism directly at the Bonn Government, which has told its Nato partners that it will find it difficult to persuade the West German people of the need to modernize the short-range weapons, particularly after the success of the INF agreement, which will remove all land-based intermediate-range missiles from Europe.

Mrs Thatcher pointed out that Chancellor Kohl of West Germany had publicly stated that he was not in favour of "a third zero option" — elimination of the tactical nuclear missiles.

She said Chancellor Kohl was "an absolutely staunch member of Nato", and it was the duty of all heads of

government to see that there was an effective defence policy, based on "modern" weapons.

During a press conference at Nato headquarters she repeatedly referred to the decision on modernizing nuclear weapons taken by Nato defence ministers at Monrovia, in Canada, in October 1983.

She said that, provided that decision was carried out, Nato's strategy of flexible response would be preserved.

Her statement caused some surprise since a high-level Nato committee is now examining a list of options of possible additional nuclear weapons to introduce into Europe to fill any gap left by the removal of the land-based cruise and Pershing 2 missiles under the INF Treaty.

The list includes the possible deployment of more American F-111 bombers.

Nato military commanders refer to these options as "possible adjustments", while the Soviet Union describes them as "compensatory weapons" in breach of the spirit of the INF Treaty.

However, Mrs Thatcher said there was no such thing as compensation. "It's a fourth issue," she said.

She warned: "We ignore at our peril the fact that Soviet policies abroad remain a serious threat. Their objective is to separate Western Europe from the United States, to dissolve Nato unity and lower allied defences. A denuded Europe would admirably serve their purposes."

Kohl takes tough line

Bonn — Emboldened by his success in facing down Mrs Thatcher and saving the INF summit, Chancellor Kohl of West Germany flew to Washington yesterday prepared to take a tougher "national interests" line in talks with President Reagan and other American leaders on new East-West disarmament moves (John England writes).

Herr Kohl's main demand will be for a comprehensive global strategy in the wake of the US-Soviet INF treaty. That would embrace short-range nuclear missiles, conventional forces and chemical

weapons. The Chancellor is against modernization of battlefield missiles (with ranges of up to 275 miles) in isolation.

The Chancellor will underline Bonn's fears of the "special threat" posed to West Germany by the Warsaw Pact's superiority in short-range missiles and conventional forces, and will insist that Nato's strategy should see the connection between them.

Herr Kohl, who will be accompanied by Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, his Foreign Minister, will spend three days in Washington.

Huge costs of defence projects put a sharper focus on partnership

By Our Defence Correspondent

One of the greatest tests of faith for Nato is the issue of collaboration on defence projects. While Mrs Margaret Thatcher addressed the more strategic questions in Brussels yesterday, the nuts and bolts of the Nato partnership — the shared hardware — have become a focus of increasing interest.

There is a genuine political impetus towards closer co-operation, exhibited by even the most nationalist-minded. The strongest motivation has been cost. Fighter aircraft and warships for the 1990s are going to be extremely expensive. West European defence budgets can no longer keep up with the rising costs. Collaboration has to be the way ahead.

But, as experience has shown, collaboration does not necessarily mean lower costs. There have been disasters which have served as a grim lesson for all future multinational programmes. The SP70 Howitzer, for example, developed by Britain, Italy and West Germany over a long period, was bedevilled by conflicting technical requirements and was finally cancelled in 1986. It cost the British taxpayer £88 million.

The big collaborative programmes that lie ahead are the European Fighter Aircraft (EFA), which involves Britain, West Germany, Italy and Spain, and the NFR 90 Nato frigate. Neither programme has been an easy ride.

It could cost £20 billion to

develop and produce 800 EFAs. West Germany is so worried about the funding that it wants its share of the bill to be cut back by about DM1 billion (about £330 million). West German vaccination could delay the whole programme because the issue is complicated.

Britain, for example, says it has squeezed as much as it can get in price reductions, so it is up to the West Germans to negotiate their own cuts with the manufacturing consortiums. All four governments will then have to agree.

With such large sums involved in the EFA programme, the political stakes are high. Yet the prospects for a successful collaborative programme are good, if only because the Nato partners involved have

the Tornado experience behind them. The Tornado, built by Britain, West Germany and Italy, has also been a very expensive exercise because there are three different production lines. One aircraft costs about £18 million.

But the programme kept together British Aerospace's main aircraft design and development asset at Warton and the lessons learnt from the Tornado programme will be invaluable for EFA.

The NFR 90 frigate project, involving Britain, France, Canada, West Germany, Italy, The Netherlands, Spain and the US, already has a flaw which is causing problems with the British Government. The others are keen to push ahead with the design of the hull, without

matching the specifications to the required weapon systems. Britain has agreed to sign the next stage in the study, but remains anxious.

Nato defence experts emphasize that collaboration for collaboration's sake is worthless. There has to be a proper goal and consensus on getting value for money. One of the drawbacks is that collaboration does not generally invite competition. One answer, according to the experts, is to encourage the formation of "trans-national" consortiums which would compete with each other to participate in European collaborative programmes. Experts believe that this will be the next most logical step.

OTTAWA: The Soviet Union is appealing to the Canadian people,

over the heads of government leaders, for support of Mr Mikhail Gorbachev's proposal to reduce East-West military confrontation in the Arctic (John Best writes).

The Soviet Embassy called a press conference here on Tuesday to try to kindle greater Canadian interest in the proposal.

Canada, like many Western countries, has been cool to the plan for Arctic demilitarization and operation which Mr Gorbachev, the Soviet leader, put forward in a speech at Murmansk last year. Mr Perrin Beatty, the Canadian Defence Minister, has suggested that the proposal is meaningless as long as Russia continues to build up its submarine and other military assets in the Kola peninsula.

Guerrillas kill 12 in Burma

Rangoon (Reuters) — A time bomb planted by Kachin insurgents killed 12 people and wounded 133 in northern Burma, the *Working People's Daily* said. The bomb exploded last Friday near a stage where Monywa Township High School pupils were performing dances.

The Burmese Army said last month it had destroyed at least 14 Kachin guerrilla bases since launching a military campaign last May. It said the number of Kachin guerrillas had been reduced to about 4,000 in northern and north-eastern Burma.

Bomb charge

Lagos (AFP) — The head of Nigeria's Army Intelligence and the deputy chief of security services have been charged with the letter-bomb murder of Dele Giwa, a leading magazine editor, in October, 1986.

Rail strike

Lisbon (Reuters) — Portuguese railway workers staged a 24-hour strike for better conditions and pay, halting most trains and causing chaos in Lisbon where there was also a Metro stoppage.

Police fire

Delhi (Reuters) — At least two people were killed and 15 injured when Uttar Pradesh police opened fire on thousands of angry farmers who tried to burn down a police station during a demonstration for drought relief.

Youths jailed

Dar es Salaam (Reuters) — Four Zanzibar youths who tried to hijack an internal flight of an Air Tanzania Boeing 737 to London last Saturday have been sentenced to 15 years in jail.

Timor killing

Jakarta (Reuters) — Two men were accused in a court on Timor Island of killing and eating a man they suspected of stealing 27 horses, the newspaper *Kompas* reported.

Marcos sale

New York (Reuters) — Five pairs of party shoes and some plastic grapes once owned by Mrs Imelda Marcos, wife of the former Philippines President, were sold for about \$500 (£285) at an auction.

Spotlight on Unesco

Leader's balancing act

Susan MacDonald, Paris

Professor Federico Mayor, the new Director-General of Unesco, is slowly using up the large amounts of goodwill invested in him when he was elected to the job last November.

Western member countries, who were expecting a lot of him, are still awaiting clear and detailed indications about his priorities in returning the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to the path and ideals from which it strayed during Mr Amadou Mahtar M'Bow's years as Director-General.

One of the main troubles appears to be that Professor Mayor, a Spanish biochemist, tailors his statements to suit his audience. A main bone of contention is the controversial "New World Information Order", introduced under Mr M'Bow, which could allow governments to license journalists.

In an interview with the US magazine *Newsweek* at the beginning of the year, Professor Mayor indicated his opposition to the programme by saying that he would never allow anything to cut the free flow of information. In an interview with the Senegalese daily *Le Soleil* and in a Tass news agency interview, he declared his support for the programme.

me's philosophy and said its implementation was one of his priorities.

Again his answers differ on the oft-repeated question of what action is needed now to pave the way for the return of the United States, Britain and Singapore to the Unesco fold.

To *Newsweek* he talked of his plans to revamp Unesco in the hope of attracting the three

Geneva (Reuters) — Professor Federico Mayor, the Director-General of Unesco, said yesterday that he had made high-level contacts with the US, British and Singapore Governments and hoped they would rejoin the 156-state body within 18 months.

The three quit when Mr Amadou Mahtar M'Bow headed the agency, complaining of waste. The departure of Britain and the US, which provided more than 30 per cent of the budget, plunged Unesco into a financial crisis.

countries back, but to the French press last month and during his first trip abroad (to West Africa to mend fences after Mr M'Bow's defeat) he said he would do nothing because his first duty was to member countries.

"As a good Spaniard, I know that terrors should

never leave the building — no matter how tough it gets."

At Unesco's Paris headquarters, the professor's aides say he is well aware of the changes and financial savings that need to be implemented, and point out that he has already suppressed publication of a book, ordered by Mr M'Bow at a cost of just less than \$75,000 (about £43,000), purporting to show that it was a "disinformation" campaign against Mr M'Bow which led to the US and British withdrawals.

He has also postponed a Unesco-funded symposium on the New World Information Order scheduled for March in Helsinki. Whenever possible, say his aides, he praises the alternative International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC).

The IPDC needs a new director and Professor Mayor is said to be under great pressure to appoint a man Western members have already indicated will not be acceptable to them. His ability to resist the pressure and the outcome of the next Executive Board session in May will do much to show whether Professor Mayor is really able to come to grips with the enormous task facing him.

Impatient Managuans queue to swap old money for new

From David Gollob, Managua

Shops and markets in Managua slowly reopened as Nicaraguans recovered from the shock of the Government's drastic economic reforms. The measures, aimed at curbing inflation of 1,500 per cent, include the issue of a new currency, the abolition of subsidies on food, fuel, and transport, and radical restructuring of prices and wages.

Thousands of people carrying shopping bags full of banknotes queued impatiently on the second day of the huge currency exchange operation, in which old cordobas were traded in for new ones at a rate of 1,000 to one.

As with the old currency, the new cordoba notes feature prominently the faces of Sandinista heroes. The 100-cordoba note carries the portrait of Rigoberto Lopez Perez, the Nicaraguan poet who assassinated Anastasio Somoza in the 1960s.

The 1,000-cordoba note carries a portrait of Augusto C. Sandino, the legendary anti-American rebel whose name and history gave the Sandinista front its identity and central myth.

"This is one of the best things the Government has done in a long time," said Señor Manuel Morales, a hospital worker who has 10

children, as he queued at a Margueta school, one of 2,000 government buildings converted into exchange centres. Señor Morales said he expected his salary to increase by 500 per cent.

State employees, professionals and people on fixed incomes have suffered most from spiralling inflation and a badly-managed food subsidy system, under which black marketeering flourished. The objectives of the restructuring is to protect the purchasing power of workers in the formal sector of the economy, at the expense of speculators and black marketeers.

Nicaraguans are allowed to convert only up to 10 million old cordobas, worth roughly \$115 at black market rates, into new cordobas. Sums in excess of 10 million old cordobas must be deposited in special bank accounts, for conversion at a later date. However, unless people can show they obtained the money legally it will not be returned.

"This amounts to confiscation," said Señor Enrique Bolanos, president of the Superior Council of Private Enterprise, in an interview in the opposition newspaper *La Prensa*. "It's unjust."

The measures will mean a sudden and dramatic reduction

in the money supplies, which officials hope will reduce inflationary pressures. With more than half its budget devoted to defence, the Government stimulated inflation over the past few years by printing money to finance its internal deficit. A total of 1,500 billion old cordobas are in circulation, an astronomical figure for a country of only three million people whose exports have fallen to less than \$172 million. The old currency had sunk to 16,000 times less than its pre-revolutionary value when the measures were announced.

The new cordoba, pegged to the dollar at the rate of 10 to one, restored the pre-revolutionary value of the currency. However black marketeers said they expected the dollar to quickly regain its former value as the Government gradually releases vast quantities of currency temporarily sequestered by the banks.

The Government launched a huge operation to carry out the three-day exchange.

"This is a blow to traffickers, speculators and even the Contra rebels," said a Sandinista source. "The Contras are running around in the mountains with bags of worthless banknotes. Their masters in the US will have to start sending them dollars instead."

Refugee landings blocked by Thais

From Nelli Kelly Bangkok

Thailand's tough new measures to stop Vietnamese boat people from landing appear to be working. Marine police, fishermen and Western aid officials said thousands of Vietnamese waiting to sail from Cambodia and Vietnam had abandoned the journey.

Officials said no more than 200 Vietnamese had arrived this month compared with 500 a week in recent months. Last year more than 12,000 boat people landed in Thailand, three times the figure in 1986 and the highest number for five years.

More than 1,000 refugees have been pushed away from the coast out to the open seas in the past three weeks. Seven Vietnamese were killed and eight disappeared when a Thai government vessel rammed their boat to keep it away.

International aid workers said vessels financed by Western nations to protect refugees from pirates were being used against the refugees.

About 2,000 Vietnamese are stranded on islands off the coast where they are short of food and other essentials. The UN has complained to the Thai Government that aid officials cannot visit them.

Another 700 who reached the Thai mainland are being

moved to a refugee camp near the Cambodian border where conditions are much harsher than in the main Vietnamese camp south of Bangkok. There they will have no UN protection, no refugee status and thus small chance of settlement in third countries.

The measures have been condemned by the United States Government and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees as inhumane. Thailand, however, has rejected the complaints, saying that the Vietnamese must be kept out for national security reasons and because they are economic, not genuine, refugees. Officials claim that spies for the Hanoi Government were among recent arrivals, but no evidence of that has been disclosed.

Washington has said it sympathized with Thailand's situation but could not condone measures that posed a further threat to the lives and wellbeing of people attempting to escape from Vietnam.

The crackdown appears to have wide public support. A former Foreign Minister, Mr Thanat Khoman, said the US should shoulder its responsibilities, as its actions in Vietnam had caused the refugee problem.

Newspapers are calling the refugees "opportunists" who are bribing their way into Thailand with money obtained from relatives in Western countries.

The governor of Trat province, where most refugees land, called for tougher measures, saying that if the Vietnamese did not heed warnings that "we should shoot them up", he has been forced to resign because of culpability in a smuggling racket involving officials in Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam.

The Vietnamese have been paying bribes of £400 to £1,000 each to get into Thailand, sometimes even obtaining false Thai identity cards.

They make the overland trip to a Cambodian port and from there take a short boat ride to the Thai coast.

Italy's most wanted man returns in shroud of intrigue

From A Correspondent, Rome

Licio Gelli, grand master of the outlawed P2 masonic lodge, was extradited from Geneva to Italy yesterday in an overnight transfer worthy of a *Le Carré* novel.

The aim was to protect Gelli and to avoid journalists and photographers: the rumour was that Gelli, known as "Il Fenestrabile", would leave the Champ Dollon prison near Geneva yesterday morning.

He did but was smuggled out at 3.30am, driven along the north shore of Lake Geneva and then put on a train at Martigny with an escort of five Swiss police officers. Those who saw him there described him as being elegantly dressed and in apparent good health.

As a decoy for dozens of journalists and photographers awaiting Gelli's arrival, Italian police set up heavy surveillance at the station of Domodossola, the usual border

crossing for trains between Geneva and northern Italy.

Instead, the train was stopped at the small village of Preglia di Crevaldossola, four miles before Domodossola, where more than 100 police in plain clothes had been on watch for several hours. Here Gelli was transferred to a bullet-proof car escorted by several police cars and whisked to his new high security home in Parma.

Gelli is now housed in a special prison within the living quarters of Parma's prison guards. Magistrates hope that he will shed light on a long list of recent unsolved Italian crimes and scandals.

After the mysterious death of Michele Sindona in a Milan prison, Italian authorities are being very careful with Gelli's security. Sindona, the banker responsible for a variety of crimes of scandal on both sides of the Atlantic, died of poison



Licio Gelli, wearing dark glasses, being smuggled out of Champ Dollon jail yesterday.

after drinking a cup of coffee, before he could testify.

Political club: Licio Gelli was at the heart of Italy's most serious political scandal since the Second World War (Roger Boyes writes). He fled to Switzerland in 1981 and was jailed there but escaped — probably to Latin America. He surrendered in Geneva last year, and was jailed for two

months in Switzerland for bribing a prison officer.

The Italian authorities have been anxious to question Gelli about much more serious charges, and they have been pressing for his extradition.

Gelli became head of the old-established masonic lodge in 1976 and swiftly made it into a form of high-powered political club. For many mem-

bers the price of entry was secret information.

According to Italian police who raided Gelli's villa, the membership list contained the names of 962 leading Italians, including four Cabinet ministers, three under-secretaries, 38 parliamentary deputies, 195 military officers, political figures from every party other than the Communists, indus-

trialists, bankers, diplomats, civil servants, judges, the Chief of the General Staff, the heads of the two intelligence services, journalists, television stars and police.

The shock waves were immense. The Christian Democratic Government, headed by Signor Arnaldo Forlani, was toppled and for the first time the leadership passed to a non-Christian Democrat.

The suspicion was that Gelli was preparing to use the volume of secret information to stage a right-wing coup. A parliamentary commission investigating the affair reported that the membership list was genuine and that there was some evidence of P2 involvement with right-wing terrorist groups.

Under Swiss law Gelli is being extradited on the relatively minor charges of declaring a fraudulent bankruptcy, other fraud charges and false testimony. These

charges derive from P2 involvement with the collapse of the Banco Ambrosiano, once headed by Roberto Calvi, who was found hanging under Blackfriars Bridge in London.

Gelli was sentenced in absentia last December to eight years' imprisonment for funding neo-Fascist terrorist groups in 1974.

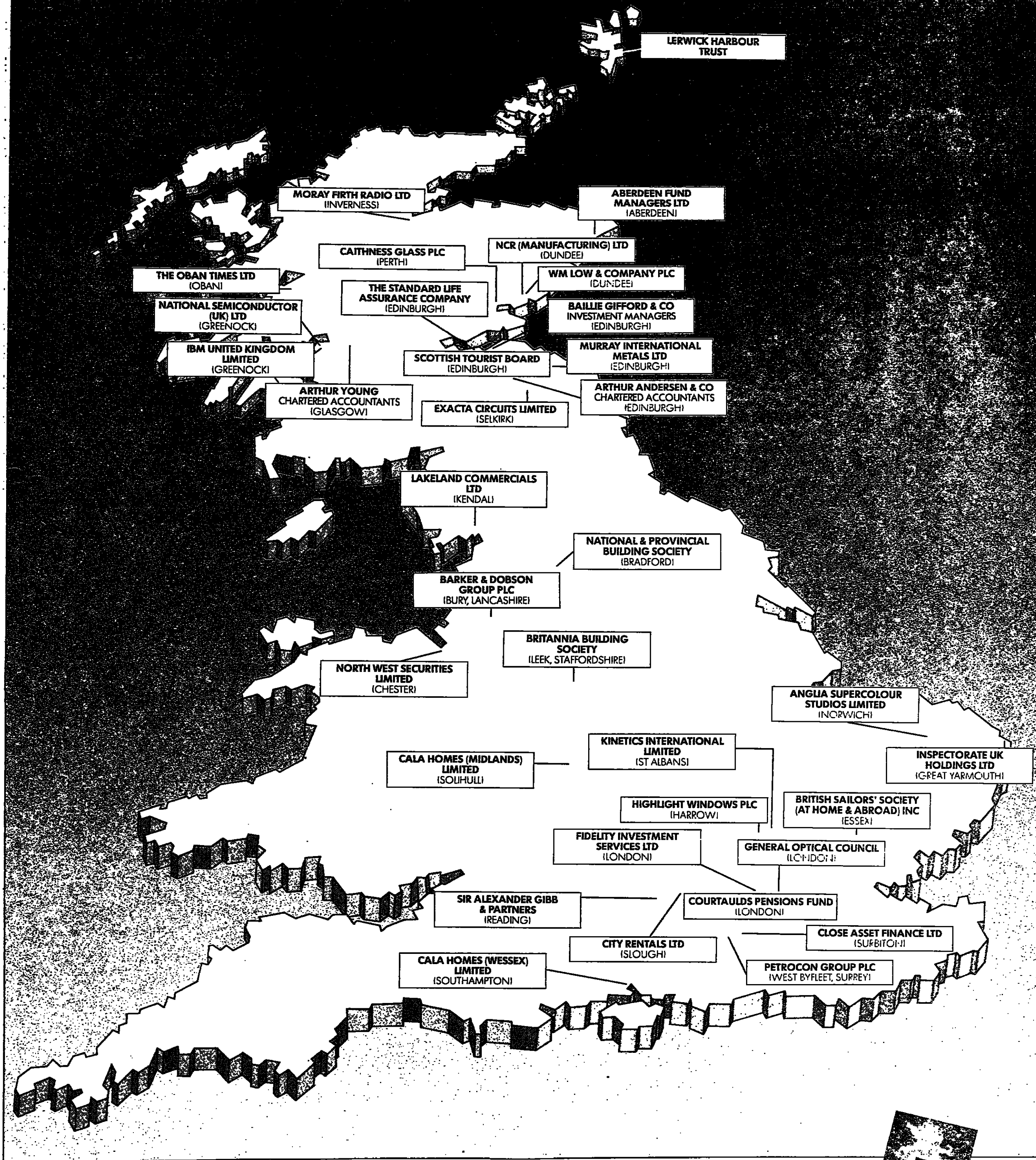
The Italian police also want to establish his connection with the right-wing terrorist bomb attack on Bologna station in 1980, which killed more than 80 people.

Gelli, who is 69, fought for the Franco side in the Spanish Civil War, and is alleged to have tortured partisans. After the fall of Fascism he fled to Argentina, where he became an adviser to General Peron. He returned to Italy and set up a textile business, becoming a millionaire.

He gave himself up apparently because of ill health.

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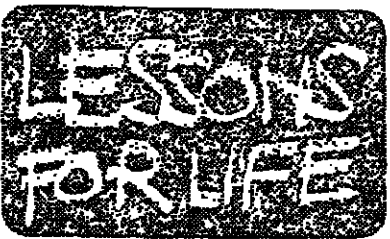
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Straight to the core...



Kenneth Baker
has sparked an
education
revolution. His

plans for a national curriculum are as sweeping as any this century.

But, he tells John Clare, the spark he most wants to see catch fire is in the heart of each child

Kenneth Baker, who introduced computers into schools, is about to publish a verse anthology of the history of England: a conjunction of three personal passions which reveals much about the man who is piloting through Parliament an education bill that he believes to be of even greater historical significance than the Butler Act of 1944.

If you ask him what went wrong with education that it needs to be so comprehensively reformed, he replies by quoting a "well-known socialist peer" who told him that the real trouble with British schools was that we now had the worst-educated working class in Europe.

"I wouldn't quite put it in those terms, but the people we've let down are not the brightest and most able. They get through somehow and go on to arguably the best universities in the world. It's the less able we have failed."

"Our biggest mistake has been to demean and dismiss technological education as something to do with greasy overalls and dirty hands. That's where we missed out, by chilling the hopes and expectations of all those who would never be good at Latin or write great prose but who had an awful lot to offer."

It leads him to one of his favourite Shakespearean quotations: "The fire in the flint shows not till it be struck." "One of the purposes of education is to strike the fire from the flint. Every boy and girl has something in them to be brought out, something they can do really well. But too many flints have not been struck. That's the really dreadful waste."

That, says the Secretary of State for Education, is why he put computers into schools. That is why he is so proud of his nascent network of city technology colleges. And that is why technology is to be 10 per cent of every pupil's timetable under the national curriculum.

"I was given some carpentry lessons at school and a bit of metalwork, but you dropped them as quickly as you could because other things were supposed to be more important. Now, thanks to the Technical and Vocational Education Initiative (TVEI) you see bright 16-year-olds who will be going on to university bending metal and making things that work."

"That's what I want all young people to have: a technological

ability. And what was the teachers' reaction to TVEI? They found 600 reasons to oppose it. It makes me so angry!"

Technology is far from all Baker wants. He gladly subscribes to the thesis propounded by Chicago's Professor Allan Bloom (in *Spectrum* on Monday) that there is a core of knowledge all educated citizens should possess and which schools have a duty to impart.

"Part of it is teaching certain basic skills: literacy, numeracy and oracy. But over and above that, children should have an understanding of the literary and artistic background of this country as well as of the historical and geographical roots from which they come."

That is why we must have a national curriculum. But there's nothing 1984-ish about it. One of the difficulties of the past 30 years has been that curriculum development has been too free-form, everyone doing their own thing. I sense a yearning among teachers for a more explicit framework, one which will limit the subjects pupils can drop."

The subjects that worry Baker most are the three that will form the core of the national curriculum: English, mathematics and science. He describes English teaching as very patchy: "There are too many young people who can read and understand only the simplest newspapers. That's

very depressing." He says (and immediately regrets it) that mathematics is not taught as well as it used to be, or science taught as well in our schools as in most of our competitors.

It amounts to a quite fundamental indictment, but Baker is reluctant at first to be drawn on what he thinks has gone wrong: partly because working groups are considering the future of each subject and he considers himself in purdah until they have reported; but, more importantly, because he is afraid of provoking those on whom he will have to depend to deliver the education of the future.

"It's for the professionals to defend what they have done," he says. "The onus of proof is on them not on me. Why don't you ask the gurus, the Ted Wraggs of this world? They're in the dock, not me! Let them work out why they have failed so dismally." (Ted Wragg, professor of education at Exeter University, was one of the subjects of yesterday's article.)



'They're all roped together to ensure no one gets to the top'
Kenneth Baker



"I'll tell you what's wrong: not enough rigour, not demanding enough teaching." He quotes Browning on the "reach exceeding the grasp, the grasp exceeding the reach". "Children must be extended and made to operate at the edge of what they think are their capabilities. Then they suddenly discover that it's not the edge, that they can do more than they thought."

"But that's not the way they've been taught. Instead, they're all roped together on the side of the hill to ensure that no one falls down and no one gets to the top. It's the convoy philosophy: keep them together instead of allowing them to go at their own speed and achieve things in their own way."

He went on to say more about how teachers had to learn to engage children's attention because that was how you found the fire in the flint and that was what teachers were paid for. Then he laughed and said ironically: "They're all doing a great job in difficult circumstances! That's the phrase. You've got it down, haven't you?"

Later, he returned to the mathematics and his irritation with

the working group's interim report which was published in December (see right). "It was a lot of jelly, the sort of report that any group of academics might have produced in the last 20 or 30 years. There's this great doctrinal debate going on about whether maths is to do with basic skills or problem solving."

He says: "It's like that other great struggle between those who think education is the acquisition of knowledge and those who say it's the application of that knowledge to life. But it's a false distinction. The basic skills have got to be taught first, and if they're taught intelligently you soon get into problem solving. Good teaching makes that transfer, bad teaching doesn't. It's that simple."

Baker emphasizes the importance he attaches to the moral dimension which he says should infuse everything that goes on in school: "Self reliance, self restraint, honesty, not hurting others — being decent in the true, Victorian sense of the word." Then, his frustration clearly showing at the Anglican and Roman

Catholic bishops' hostility to his bill because it fails to make religious education a compulsory foundation subject, he accuses them of "retreating into the enclaves of their faith".

"What the churches have failed to recognize — and this is a major indictment — is that there are a lot of people out there who are not practising Christians, but who nevertheless accept that the basic moral tenets of the churches are rather good for their children."

"But the churches have failed to reach them. They can't get them to services on Sundays. They can't get their children to be confirmed. They've lost out. But they must recover the position themselves. I can't do it for them."

Baker is acutely conscious of the significance of what he is doing. He calls it "opening the doors of the cage so that the birds can fly through". He insists he is determined to make his reforms stick. "People didn't take me seriously at first. They kept talking about my ambition to be leader of the party. But now they know I'm changing things fundamentally."

WHAT THEY DO NOT KNOW

Compared with other countries, the teaching of maths in Britain,

George Hill discovers, does not seem to add up — and division's even worse

Add two-thirds to three-eighths: what is the answer? (It is at the bottom of the column). This problem in fractions is an easy question for Japanese 14-year-olds: in a recent international study, 69 per cent of a random sample were able to answer it. Yet only 42 per cent of British children were able to do so.

What is the value of $\frac{1}{2}$ if $5x + 4 = 4x - 31$? Many people find algebra more difficult: only 58 per cent of the Japanese 14-year-olds knew the answer. But the proportion of British children who answered correctly was only 22 per cent.

Professor Sigbert Fraiss, who resigned last week from the Secretary of State for Education's working party on the maths core curriculum, has many such mortifying comparisons up his sleeve. Studies for the National Institute for Economic and Social Research, where Fraiss is a senior research fellow, show how poorly our pupils perform in

to the lowest 40 per cent here, even at 16.

"This is what our schooling system turns out. And our parents of education would probably reply: 'We're very glad we are not wasting our children's minds with these questions', too," says Professor Fraiss caustically.

Fraiss's departure from the unhappy curriculum working party came after the publication of its interim report in December — so wet in its proposals that it earned a scathing rebuke from Kenneth Baker, which precipitated the resignation of its chairman, Professor Roger Biles-Stoyle of the University of Sussex. At the same time another report came from the working party examining how to test children for the new curriculum at the ages of 7, 11, 14 and 16. Fraiss found this, too, unduly wet.

"Having absorbed the educational philosophy which has gone into these reports, I didn't think it a good use for my time," says Professor



'Why do door handles keep falling off British cars and not off Japanese cars?'
Sigbert Fraiss

formal tests compared with their counterparts in countries like Japan and Germany.

"I have the impression that the top 10 per cent of our pupils leave school with an exceptionally good grounding, and the top 25 per cent quite well equipped," says Fraiss. "But the bottom 30 per cent leave school with very little, compared to German pupils in the same range."

For instance, German 15-year-olds in the lower half of the ability range were asked to add up and subtract this row of decimals: 389.59 — 83.64 + 529.5 — 712. The correct answer was given by 66 per cent of them.

British pupils were given the similar but simpler question: 2.6 — 4.12 + 6.3 — 0.44. Only 24 per cent of all pupils could answer it — and only about 4 per cent of the lower half.

Take division: 69 per cent of Germans in the lower half of the range could answer: 18½ divided by 7¼. Only 40 per cent of all British children could do so, and only 13 per cent of the lower half.

This kind of division of fractions is on the syllabus for the lowest 40 per cent of 15-year olds in German schools. But such sums are not considered appropriate to be taught

As a result, Britain has a far smaller pool of school-leavers equipped with the skills needed to start training for craftsman-status. "The consequences are obvious. Why do the door handles keep falling off British cars and not Japanese ones?" he asks.

His opponents in the educational debate would claim that British pupils have studied areas of mathematical knowledge which go unmentioned in German and Japanese teaching at comparable levels, and are less easily assessed in formal testing — such as tessellations, topology, mathematical logic and matrices.

Fraiss replies that traditionalist teachers fear that these areas can be taught too superficially to be of use, and may end by confusing and alienating many pupils. (Answers: 1¼; minus 35; 123.45; 4.34; 2.4.)

TOMORROW

The Times 50: the experts put together the ideal list of books that every child should be reading at each stage of school life

Bowing out of the market

artfile



SARAH JANE CHECKLAND

A weekly look at the art world

British musicians can no longer afford the soaring prices of good instruments. So should business be providing better backing?

For 25 years, musical instruments have been in tune with the rest of the art market — a unchecked crescendo of price rises. A violin worth £15,000 in 1963 may now cost £600,000. But the higher prices go, the less attainable the instruments become for our musicians, whose average earnings are £15,000.

Last week an anonymous benefactor bought a \$1 million (£370,000) Stradivarius for the violinist Norbert Brainin, happy for Brainin to buy it back on the "never-never".

But such fairy-tale solutions are all too rare. As the dealer

Charles Beare, who brought about the Brainin deal, says: "British orchestras used to have a tremendous advantage in terms of quality of instruments. Now, because we outpriced ourselves, the whole thing is reversed. We cannot afford to buy them any more."

At the top end of the market there is a tragic waste of resources. Stradivari's Lady Blunt violin has been languishing, unplayed, at Sotheby's since it failed to sell two years ago; many are bought purely for investment, and kept in store. Instruments left to institutions for the use of gifted players — such as the six at the Royal Academy of Music — are, according to the principal, Sir David Lumsden, "as much a liability as an asset". One is currently in a bank vault; the academy has got permission from the Charities Commission to sell it. Such a move would obviously deter potential benefactors.

But it is the middle-range instruments which are most under threat. Although Charles Beare provides 30 instruments to brilliant children as "a hobby", by the time they are 13 they are on their own. The Loan Fund for Musical Instruments, set up in 1980, has a fleet of £400,000 from which it lends up to £15,000 at 3 per cent interest. But only 171 of the 377 applicants have received assistance, mostly for sums less than £5,000. "What's happen-

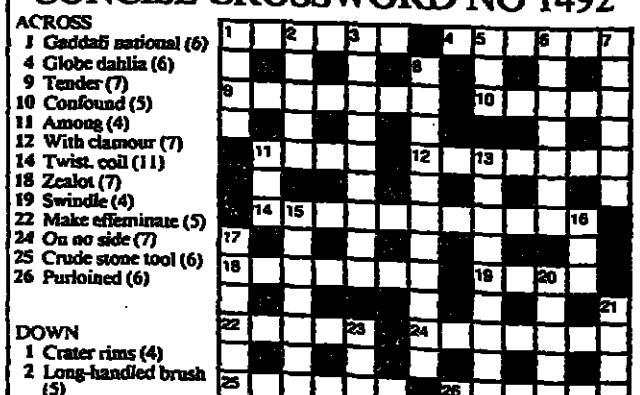
ing is a kind of brain drain, with all the instruments going to Japan," says the cellist Alexander Baillie.

In Denmark and Germany, the government supplies grants for musicians of all standards to buy instruments. Here there is no such indulgence. Banks refuse to accept instruments as security; insurance can be crippling.

Baillie, who is 32, has

proposed sensible schemes whereby businesses can invest in instruments; one merchant bank showed interest, but then backed off. Frustrated, Baillie cites the example of a violin which sold for £88,000 in 1978, £130,000 in 1983 and more than £190,000 this year: "It works out at about the same profit as if you had invested in a building society, but means so much more to the musician."

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1492



ACROSS
1 Gaddafi national (6)
4 Globe dahlia (6)
9 Tender (7)
10 Confound (5)
11 Among (4)
12 With clamour (7)
14 Twist coil (11)
18 Zealot (7)
19 Swindle (4)
22 Make effeminate (5)
24 On no side (7)
25 Crude stone tool (6)
26 Purloined (6)

DOWN
1 Crater rims (4)
2 Long-handled brush (5)
3 Declaration on oath (9)
5 Start (3)
6 Stipulation (7)
7 Cause sufferer (8)
8 Semi-transparent (11)
11 Banned S.African group (1,1,1)
13 Break in (9)
15 Wine, honey drink (7)
16 Cold snap (3)
17 Talk profusely (9)
20 Wall painting (5)
21 Scheme (4)
23 Napierian digit (3)

SOLUTION TO NO 1491
ACROSS: 1 Farouche 5 Cleg 9 Workshop 11 Ophir 11 Royal 12 Reich 13 Earth 15 Bid up 16 Cover 18 Sizzle 20 David 21 Imposed 23 Dodo 24 Asteroid
DOWN: 1 Fowler 2 Rare bird 3 Uchi 4 Happy Families 6 Leth 7 Garish 8 Coalesce 11 Rhapsody 14 Reversed 15 Bonded 17 Ruder 19 Ovid 21 Pie

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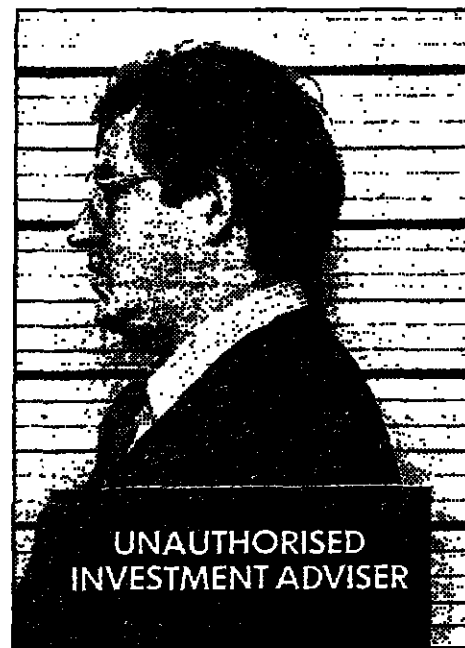
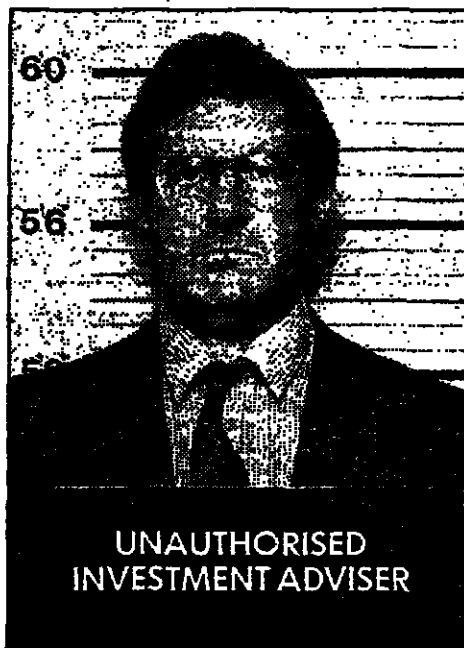
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WARNING TO INVESTMENT BUSINESSES.

IF YOU'RE UNAUTHORISED YOU'RE ABOUT TO BECOME UNLAWFUL.

If you're carrying on investment business a forthcoming change in the law could land you in trouble - and investment business *includes* independent investment advisers and salesmen.

Under the next stage of the Financial Services Act 1986, you have to apply for authorisation before 27 February. You can become authorised by joining a recognised self-regulating organisation. Three self-regulating organisations - FIMBRA, AFB and IMRO - have been recognised under the Act, and two others - The Securities Association and LAUTRO - have applied for recognition. The panel shows which organisation is likely to be most appropriate to you. Members of certain professional bodies may be able to get authorisation from those bodies. It will also be possible to get authorisation direct from SIB (see panel).



If you have not applied for authorisation before 27 February and you are not exempt, you risk imprisonment or a fine for committing a criminal offence if you continue to carry on investment business after the Act comes into force in April.

The new law can apply to anyone from an estate agent to a pension fund manager, from a life assurance/pension consultant to a stockbroker acting for private clients.

If you think this could apply to you, you need to seek advice urgently by contacting:

- 1 Your legal adviser, professional body, trade association or group; or
- 2 Any of the self-regulating organisations shown in the panel; or
- 3 SIB (see panel) or (for advice only) the DTI direct on 01-215 3538.

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TIMES DIARY

SHERIDAN MORLEY

Today's sale at Christie's of the Noel Coward paintings, reckoned to be worth around £300,000, raises the old alternative-career question. How many other men and women famous for non-painting achievements have left attics full of canvases to amaze posterity? Churchill we know about; he, in fact, was the friend who persuaded Coward to switch from watercolours to oils. Among living actors, Dirk Bogarde and Keith Michell have achieved exhibition status, while the late Lilli Palmer was often happier painting than acting.

Second only to my *Punch* friend and colleague, William Hewison (next to whom I sit at first nights, reviewing, while he sketches the actors, thereby leading over the last twelve years to several curious rumours about our precise relationship), the actor Clive Francis does the best theatrical caricatures since Ronald Searle gave them up all of thirty years ago. But are there, in fact, several painters who secretly go out to act? We know Picasso once played in his own *Desire Caught by the Tail*. Did Laurence ever dance professionally at the Moulin Rouge? Did Van Gogh appear with the Arles amateur dramatic society as a one-armed King Lear? Somewhere in there has to be a book for John Russell Taylor.

In the week when Prince Edward goes to work for what now has to be thought of as Andrew Lloyd Webber's Royally Useful Company, it is perhaps worth considering the precise nature of the organization he is joining, and of that composer's recent musical takeover of the West End and Broadway. It is not just that Lloyd Webber happens to have written some hugely successful scores. Coward had a lot of those, as did the Novello, Sandy Wilson, Lionel Bart and Vivian Ellis, and it can be argued that a fair number of them were some way ahead of *Starlight Express*.

But the Lloyd Webber revolution has been industrial as well as musical: while all his predecessors, if they managed to cross the Atlantic at all, did so as the employees of American managers, Webber and his producer, Cameron Mackintosh, go in as a task force, usually taking with them the best choreographer of the modern British musical, Gillian Lynne, as well as sound and lighting technicians, poster designers, T-shirt manufacturers and backstage photographers. It is a total takeover behind as well as beyond the footlights, and what Prince Edward is therefore joining is the first serious attempt to build a British musical theatre company on the lines of the RSC or the National. At the Palace (Shaftesbury Avenue rather than Buckingham), they now have their own premises. A permanent company devoted there to the performance of musicals new and old cannot be far away.

BARRY FANTONI



There's a scrap metal dealer outside - wants to know what we've done with the iron!

There is something very unsettling about returning from California in February to find the weather sunnier over here, but I bring with me two further messages from downtown Los Angeles. One, of especial interest to Philip Howard, though probably precious few others, is that the word "earthquake" has become a verb, as in "my phone has been earthquaked". Since minor tremors are now an almost daily occurrence in LA, the local telephone companies have a genuinely God-given excuse for the permanent impossibility of making calls across the city.

Secondly, as the presidential primaries build up, a new and revolutionary kind of opinion poll has been devised which will, I fear, be with us before very long. Prospective voters are asked to stand in their bathrooms with the radio on, while an announcer calls out the names of all the candidates; when the name of their favourite comes up, they are asked to flush their lavatories. The winner is duly decided by a measurement of falling water levels. The New Hampshire primary was, perhaps, the first occasion on which it was possible to declare George Bush flushed with success.

One of the first lessons they teach you as a drama critic is that you will never really find what you want. Ken Tynan once told me that he gave it up precisely because he felt like the diner in a thousand restaurants who was never once allowed to write the menu, or even choose the ingredients. Occasionally, however, that rule gets broken, which is maybe why the rest of us stay in the profession. A couple of weeks ago, on the *Times* Arts page, I was lamenting the fact that London had no true non-jazz cabaret venue where pianists and solo singers (of the late-night Algonquin New York variety) could work well away from the background noise of hotel lobbies or restaurants. As if in answer to that, Peter Boizot has this week reopened the cellar of his Pizzina on the Park in Knightsbridge, and is presenting Blossom Dearie in her first West End appearance for six years.

A tiny, silver-haired lady who looks like one of the maiden aunts in a revival of *Arsenic and Old Lace*, Miss Dearie sings the lost songs of Frank Loesser and Richard Rodney Bennett and, indeed, Spike Milligan, with a haunting brilliance which I have never encountered before, and will be sure never to miss again. Her use of the piano, her classical jazz phrasing and her spun-silk voice are unlike those of any other cabaret entertainer in the business. She is working twice nightly at the Pizzina for the next three weeks, and she is wonderful.

Merrimack, New Hampshire Senator Dole had let his supporters suggest that Vice-President Bush was "a wimp". The religious broadcaster, the Rev Pat Robertson, had boasted that the Robertson vote constituted an "invisible army". One of Robertson's aides, noting Bush's lip service to religious belief, had dismissed the vice-president's followers as "country club, three-martini Episcopaleans".

If such opponents of Mr Bush were right, then, in the privacy of the polling booths here, the vice-president drew on a vast, invisible country club of three-martini wimps. Such a vote would represent a frightening new force in American politics. It could deliver the Republican party into the hands of normality. The Bush vote would seem to be a protest by the American people against years of figures such as Mr Dole, and General Alexander Haig, asserting their own masculinity by questioning the vice-president's, and against television evangelists deflecting hurricanes. Also, it would be a reaction against the anti-alcohol prejudice which is undermining basic American values such as the martini lunch.

No one knows how many

Frank Johnson assesses the New Hampshire primary upset

Now the wimps hit back

normal people there are in the United States. But the possibility cannot be ruled out that some day they might elect a president. Will it be their present leader - the uncharismatic Mr Bush with his carefully unexciting oratory? It is too early to say, but his upset victory here on Tuesday night has stunned and panicked the party's previously all-powerful anti-establishment.

Now it is on to Super Tuesday on March 8. Then Mr Bush will have to prove that there are large numbers of normal people in the South - a much harder task.

Could all that be true - or even some of it? Could it be at least part of the explanation for Mr Bush's recovery on Tuesday night? There appeared to be something in it. As he toured voting booths on election day, Mr Bush was downcast. Like everyone, he believed the opinion polls. These had put Mr Dole

ahead by a few points, though within the margin of error.

But the pollsters do not seem to be suffering for having got it wrong. The election night coverage, and yesterday's breakfast television, pondered the inexplicable conduct of the voters rather than that of the poll. America, which questions nearly all its institutions, is apparently not yet ready to question its opinion polls. Perhaps there is a fear that it would undermine the whole system.

Quality newspapers and beer are among the products sold here on the basis of opinion polls.

That could explain the blandness of both. From the joylessness with which they consume them there is no evidence that most Americans relish either, though they carry on consuming them. People say to the opinion pollsters and market researchers what they think they should say.

But perhaps people really do not mind blandness in politicians even though they are constantly told they should want something more: vision, leadership, a detailed policy on the deficit. Certainly, they tell pollsters that they want all those things. Ideally, they probably do. But they are more realistic than pollsters as to what is really available at the moment. And what is available at the moment among Republicans is the rude Mr Dole, the minority taste of Mr Robertson, and the well-brought up Mr Bush.

Mr Bush radiated relief as, once victory was clinched, he appeared at a Holiday Inn, in Manchester, before his campaign workers. They then gave themselves over to a night of joyous bourgeois celebration. The torch had been passed back to an older generation. They shuffled to the reassuring big band of one of Mr

Bush's greatest supporters from the world of middle-class culture the incomparable Lionel Hampton, he of the Chaanooga Choo-Choo, and the like. A local close-harmony group of advanced years bobbed up and down and sang that they were Yankee Doodle Dandies - a song which the campaign will doubtless drop in the South.

Youth was represented by the American north-eastern sea-board equivalent of Captain Mark Phillips: affable, shiny-faced young men from expensive schools who, every now and then, interrupted Mr Hampton at the podium to announce a Bush sweep of another unpronounceable county with a Red Indian name.

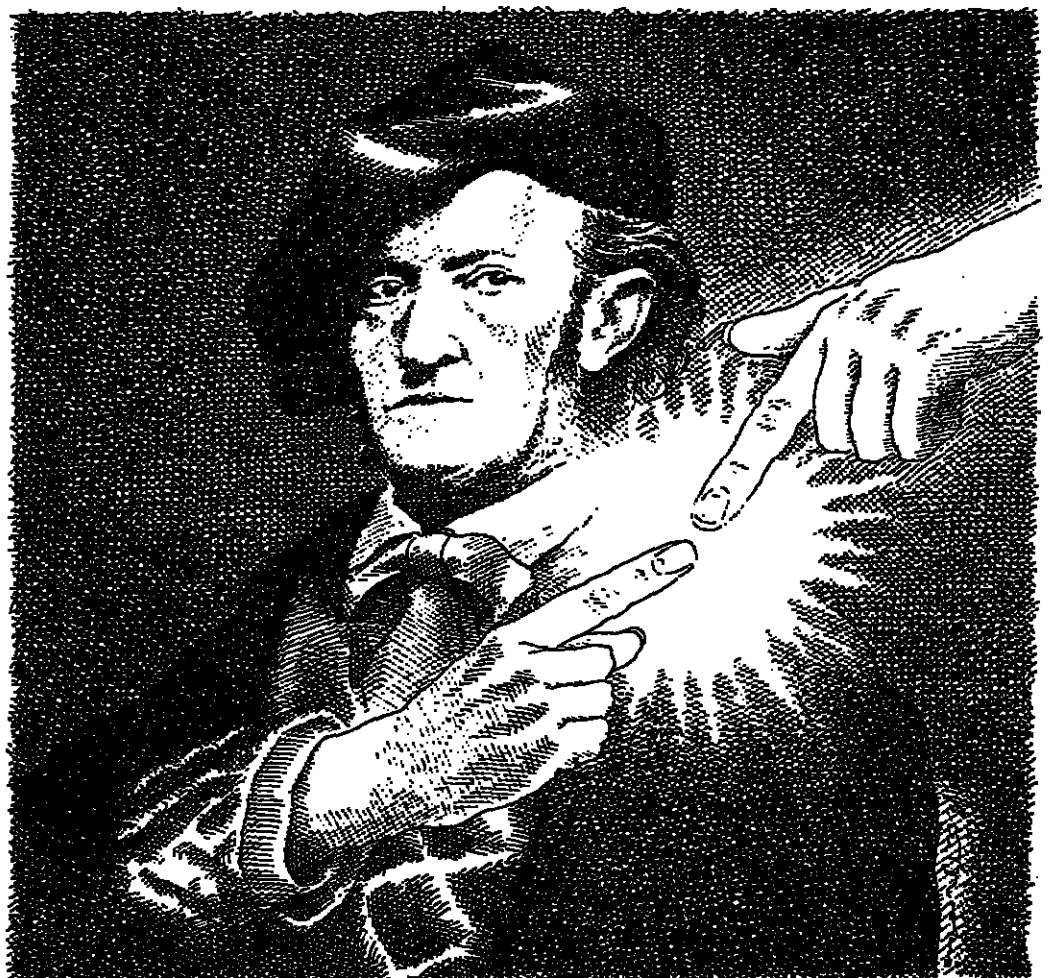
Among the Democrats it will take a while for the world to gain some idea of who or what is Governor Michael Dukakis. He campaigned on efficiency. Suffice to say, at this early stage, that he does indeed seem to be one of the dark, polite, grey-suited American managers in the advertisements who resolve the problem if you have lost your American Express card or who, if it is real life, turf you out of your hotel room.

Representative Richard Gephardt's party to celebrate what he said was his moral victory in coming second to local man Mr Dukakis was held in a low-ceilinged American Legion hall in the blue-collar quarter of Manchester. As he entered, a rock band made a colossal noise with Born in the USA. Youngish industrial workers of both sexes swigged beer from bottles and whooped. Mr Gephardt, a rather charming, blond 46-year-old of midwestern Germanic antecedents, promises to protect them against Koreans and Japanese. Who knows? This may be more popular in the South on Super Tuesday than Mr Dukakis's efficiency.

Possibly, the November election will come down to a titanic cultural and class struggle between Born in the USA and The Chattanooga Choo-Choo. Whoever wins, the republic will have been saved for normality.

Bernard Levin

Still the music triumphs



Surely this is what the shepherds who were tending their flocks must have experienced when the angel appeared to them with glad tidings of great joy.

The tidings in *Parsifal* are brought in Act Three, when the Spear which pierced Christ's side heals the wound of Amfortas's guilt; even the poor production could not spoil that moment, so powerful and so complete was the spell of the conducting, playing and singing. But the spell of the performance was as strong as it was because it served, with the utmost fidelity, the spell of the opera - its drama, its meaning and its consummate ability to steep the whole evening in the balm of hope.

And when you come to think of it, what is the Christian message but hope? Of course it is an oversimplification to read *Parsifal* as orthodox Christianity. Wagner wrote much besides Christianity into his final work. But if we generalize a little, we can demonstrate that the redemption of Amfortas is indeed the symbol of the redemption of the world; remember that we hear, as Parsifal moves with the healing instrument towards the stricken man, the Grail, not Parsifal's own theme, and as the spear-point closes the wound, it is not the weapon that sounds, but Amfortas himself. Surely Wagner is saying that Parsifal is neither Christ nor John the Baptist, but the Paraclete of St John's Gospel, who is sent to comfort the world: "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you". And it is man, sinful but capable of redemption, who receives the divine gift from the hands of "the innocent fool, made wise by pity".

It is possible that Richard Wagner is cackling in hell as he reads these words in the Asbestos Edition, having caught yet another sucker with his hook. But I doubt it; I heard the closing bars of the Covent Garden performance, and I saw the Dove flutter across the stage in the radiance of the Grail, and remembered how St John goes on: "Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid".

The new Covent Garden production of *Parsifal* illustrates with dreadful exactitude the phenomenon, often remarked upon, of the man who divorces his wife and then marries another woman who looks and behaves exactly like her. I am sorry to re-awaken ancient grief, but high as is my admiration for Mr Terry Hands, I have to say that his production of *Parsifal* in 1979 was a catastrophe registering about 470 on the Monsterlop Scale.

At that time, Mr Hands had directed only one opera - *Otello*, in Paris - and although I wished him well, I foresaw disaster. I foresaw it, however, not because I didn't believe him talented enough for the task, but because directing opera is not the same as directing plays, and a lifetime on the dramatic stage will not guarantee success upon the lyric; a wholly new approach (and, of course, technique) must first be understood and assimilated. Moreover, Wagner demands an approach and a technique different not only from the theatre but from other composers, and a long course of immersion in his work and thought, and assiduous attendance backstage throughout the production of more than one of his operas, is essential to success (which is not, even then, by any means assured).

Time passes; the Hands *Parsifal* is buried, and none so poor to do it reverence; Bernard Haitink is appointed Musical Director, and the question of a new *Parsifal* is raised. And then somebody suggests Bill Bryden as director, and a lot of other people, by no means all indisputably deranged, think it a good idea. Bryden, who is also a very talented stage director - he gave us *The Merry Wives*, after all - had never directed any opera at all, let alone Wagner; heigh-ho, up went the curtain, and five minutes later Mr Monster's useful invention was registering 396.

Let's get it over quickly; the idea of the production is that *Parsifal* is the end-of-term play at a minor public school in the 1930s, put on in the ruined church next door, with the dotting parents of the performers scattered round the stage - handbags, hats, three-piece suits

and all (Gurnemann is the headmaster, incidentally); from time to time the parents are called upon to do things, such as light candles and hold them in their laps. I truly believe that it was only by the direct intervention of Almighty God - who, after all, has a substantial interest in the matter - that the Grail was not inscribed "The Mrs Featheringay-Fawcett Cup for Outstanding Prowess in the Gymnasium". (Perhaps it was; my sight is not of the keenest.)

You will doubtless suppose from that gloomy introduction that I had a bad time. Your supposition, though understandable, is baseless. Musically, it was without exception the finest *Parsifal* of my life. I have never before been so entirely overwhelmed by its force and meaning. And if you demand a context for my claim, I can offer some 30 performances in half a dozen countries; I never saw the legendary 1951 Knappertsbusch performance, though I treasure the recording, but I was at Bayreuth in 1962 for what was almost Kna's last revival of it, and some who heard both live swore that the latter was the better one. (Gundula Janowitz was one of the Flower Maidens - fancy! Mind you, Kiri herself started as a Flower Maiden at Covent Garden.)

Over the years, the Wagner operas have rearranged themselves again and again in my mind in order of priority. *The Ring* (its constituent parts also go up and down in my ordering) stayed at the top of the charts for many years, but has slipped a little, while *Masteringers* grows and grows; to *Tristan* I go resisting all the way, only to be drowned full fathom five the moment the Prelude starts; *Tannhäuser* I wouldn't much mind if I never heard again, and I have never really warmed to *Lohengrin* (though I hope to hear Domingo sing it here in June even if I have to be carried in a chair, like Amfortas, or indeed in a coffin, like Titurel).

But *Parsifal*, which I took a good many years to understand (it is not a work for youth), and have not yet finished under-

standing, and never shall, now stands at the very head of the parade, beckoning me at one and the same time into Klingor's Magic Garden, which is death, and the Temple of the Grail, which is eternal life.

The contrast between Wagner's prodigious genius and his horrible personal nature has been discussed endlessly and fruitlessly; there's no art to find the mind's construction in the music. Some great artists have been of the most beautiful and loving nature, and some have been anything from dishonest to the most frightful swine. (Caravaggio murdered a man in the course of a quarrel on the tennis court; even McEnroe has never done that). Wagner, to be sure, takes the dichotomy to lengths unparalleled in all history (Georg Solti calls him "det old

gangster") but there is nothing to be done about it, and surely *Parsifal* is the greatest testimony in all art to the terrible truth that so enraged Shaffer's Salieri: any channel, even an unworthy one, will serve as an aqueduct through which the pure water of art can flow from Heaven to earth, and not be tainted by the corrupted vessel that serves it.

There is a moment, some two-thirds of the way through Act Two, when this lesson is driven home in the most violent possible way. Consider: the raging tempest of sensuality which the central act consists of is constructed out of musical materials very different from those of the two outer acts. This is reflected in the leitmotifs which Wagner uses throughout the act; naturally, Kundry's dominates the list, together with those closely

associated with her and her past. When Parsifal enters, he adds strains from the other world, and for a long time Herzeleid, the Wound, the Spear, Kundry's Wildness, Torment of Sin, Longing, Fool, and of course Klingor, weave in and out of the veiling, flooding orchestral and vocal texture. Suddenly, without warning, we hear, for the first time in three-quarters of an hour's music, the Grail. It is like a blow in the face, so unemphatic are we in the struggle between good and evil; but I never remember that it is approaching, with its glorious news that the battle is almost over, and light has triumphed over darkness.

Well, this time, when it rose from the orchestra like Excalibur, I thought it would stop my heart, so far had I been drawn into the furnace of the struggle.

Commentary • RONALD BUTT

Above the gore

The broadcasters, like the rest of us, would like to have their cake and eat it. They wish to be responsible custodians of their powerful medium but to pay as low a price as possible for this in terms of self-restraint. Out of the television screen must always come something new and startling to shock us out of our stuffy ways. In balancing their responsibility with their urge for dramatic adventure, television's hierarchs also claim to be judge and jury in their own case.

There is, nevertheless, a new atmosphere of openness in the BBC which recently held a seminar on *Violence and the Media*, which (despite its title) was entirely about television. It was introduced by Mr Duke Huxley, the chairman of the governors, without whose new broom it would probably never have been held. Papers were read by the director general, Mr Michael Checkland, his deputy, Mr John Birt, representatives of the programme-makers, producers, and also by various outsiders including me. What was said in these papers can now be read in a BBC publication.

This, however, gives no account of what was perhaps the most valuable part of the proceedings, the discussions and the showing of filmed material (news and fiction) "censored" by the BBC itself as too violent to be transmitted. We often speak of violence on television as though it were a single phenomenon and as if the impact of real violence in the news and documentaries and that of fictional violence were much the same. They are not, and it is important to understand the difference.

Among the news films shown were scenes of carnage and horror the like of which I had never witnessed before. The worst were those when more than a hundred people were massacred by a bomb in Colombo last April. Mr Ron Neil, the deputy director of News and Current Affairs, said they were the worst he had ever seen, and I quote his words lest I seem to exaggerate. "They showed severed heads, mutilated torsos splattered in blood and rescuers throwing human limbs into the back of a lorry." He added: "In my view they were completely untransmittable" and that view would surely be almost everybody's. Much the same considerations apply to some ghastly film of the Rome airport massacre, close-ups of a boy dying in the Heysel stadium and a cold-blooded interethnic black murder in South Africa.

It is not to spare viewers a fuller knowledge of man's inhumanity to man or to shield them from reality that these pictures should not be shown. It is because it would be an affront to our humanity to oblige viewers to see them in the mood of more or less vague curiosity with which we generally watch the news. There are some things at which it is not right to look. Nor is it that showing such film risks incitation. Whereas fictional violence engages the viewer as fascinated witness to the act which causes the horror, in real violence the camera can only record its consequences and self-evidently never the original act.

But each time we are taken over a new threshold of horror we de-sensitize ourselves because we cannot absorb and

accept the truth. It is possible to look at the consequences of real violence on television with a detachment and almost indifference which we could not feel if we were eye-witnesses, and the explanation is partly that if we were there we could do something about it. We might try to help or flee from the horror, but either would be a kind of action. Film, on the other hand, seems to be a viewer who wonders why the Colombo massacre had been the leading story in the six o'clock news since there didn't seem to be much to it. All that had been shown was an "innocuous" wide-angled shot of the street, which was actually misleading. Surely the answer is for TV to say that there are pictures too horrible to be shown and in later bulletins to say what these reveal. The moral significance of human words are more powerful than the mechanical product of the camera whose artificial product is never quite what the human eye sees.

Television is always too afraid to use the power of words without the distraction of pictures. A little more editorializing would not come amiss. Even so, the news broadcasters bring a highly responsible attitude to their problem of violence. This is more than can be said for television entertainment to which I hope to turn next week.

SCIENCE REPORT

In search of Eden

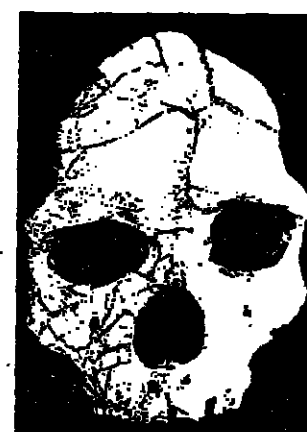
A shake-out is likely in prehistoric archaeology with the revelation that "modern" human beings were living in the Middle East nearly 100,000 years ago - twice as long ago as had been thought.

In today's *Nature*, Dr Helene Valladas and colleagues in France and Israel write that modern man lived there before Neanderthals, assumed by many to be our ancestors. The discovery was made using thermoluminescence (TL) dating, which estimates the age of ancient objects from the energy they accumulate because of internal radioactivity.

Dr Chris Stringer, a British Museum palaeoanthropologist, says the findings "turn the conventional evolutionary sequence on its head".

Valladas and her team say that charred flint tools associated with Stone Age skeletons from Qafzeh cave in Galilee are 92,000 years old. Previous estimates based on the archaeology of Qafzeh and caves on nearby Mount Carmel dated them at around 40,000 years. The new TL dating vindicates the belief of some archaeologists that the Qafzeh site is more ancient than it looks.

Previous estimates rest on long-held theories that modern man descended from Neanderthals. Since carbon dating shows that Neanderthals lived in Israel 50,000 years ago, the Qafzeh and Mount Carmel people were supposed to have lived more recently. The Qafzeh site



Qafzeh skull: first man?

was first excavated in the 1930s, but most of the important human skeletons were found by a joint French-Israeli team in the mid-1960s. Most had been buried in a foetal position. One was of a child, buried cradling deer antlers.

TL dating exploits natural radioactive decay in materials such as flint or clay pottery. Electrons released by the active decay become trapped in the crystalline lattice of the material. The density of trapped electrons is a clue to the age of the crystal, and can be measured from the intensity of the flash of light radiated when the crystal is heated. Burning resets the clock, so studying flints charred in the fires of the Qafzeh people gives a good estimate of when they lived. The new TL dating is supported by another tech-

nique called Electron Spin Resonance (ESR) dating. Dr Rainer Grun of Cambridge University says the ESR results give an age "very close" to Valladas's TL dates.

This discovery comes at a time in palaeoanthropology when genetic methods are pinpointing humanity's origins. Divergences between the DNA of various ethnic groups give clues to when they separated. Tracing the ancestry back far enough, the time and place of the Garden of Eden may yet be found.

But present data are open to conflicting interpretations. Most agree that humanity originated in Africa, but one school holds that we are descended from the *Homo erectus* people who left Africa a million years ago. Others say the data are better explained if ancestral modern humans left Africa 90,000 years later; Neanderthals are then our distant cousins, not our ancestors.

Stringer points to two problems thrown up by the TL dates. First, why do the Qafzeh and Mount Carmel people look so alike despite the 50,000 years between them? Perhaps modern man was excluded from Europe by the early Neanderthals already living there.

Second, if the Qafzeh people are as old as human fossils from southern Africa, must we look even further back for Eden? And how far?

HENRY GEE



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KEEPING AGREEMENTS

Events of the last fortnight have led to apocalyptic talk, both in London and in Dublin, about the future of the Anglo-Irish Agreement. Tensions have been raised by mistakes in the handling of the "shoot to kill" investigation by the British authorities, by a largely synthetic row over the consolidation of the Prevention of Terrorism Act, by the rejection of the appeals by the "Birmingham Six" and by difficulties over the new Anglo-Irish extradition procedures.

To his great credit, Mr Haughey has gone to some lengths to avoid making the tensions worse. His statement to the Dail yesterday confirmed that his Government would continue with Agreement business as usual. Mr King, in his statement to the Commons yesterday, may also have played some of the disquiet. He left some gaps too, however.

Five and a half years after the events themselves, and after the Attorney General has confirmed evidence of a conspiracy to pervert the course of justice, there is to be yet another inquiry into the disciplinary charges which should be brought inside the Royal Ulster Constabulary. The complaints laid by Mr John Stalker are to be reviewed by the Police Authority.

But the details of precisely how this is to be pursued were left vague. Changes in RUC practice which were made several years ago are only now disclosed. Above all, matters which should be independently and, as far as possible, openly reviewed, remain largely secret.

Fortunately, the results of the Anglo-Irish tension on the ground have been few so far. Compared to past rows, which have left cross-border liaison in temporary ruins, the Stalker events have seemed mild. There has been an encouraging absence in Northern Ireland itself of unionist exploitation of events. After atrocities such as that at Enniskillen, local argument has tended to revolve round the usefulness or otherwise of the Agreement in improving security — rather than fears about its subversion of Northern Ireland's constitutional status.

One unionist leader, Mr James Molyneux, has even talked recently of the desirability of

discussions between the unionist majority and the government of the republic. That is a considerable change of tone from two years ago.

Where the British Government has been culpable recently is in the incoherence of its diplomacy. Since local political progress stalled almost immediately after its signing, the Agreement has become largely a vehicle for co-operation in counter-terrorism. This is a relationship from which Britain and Northern Ireland have a great deal to gain but it requires attention and care. The communication of unwelcome news in such a context calls for the exercise of all available diplomatic skill.

For the first time since the Agreement was signed, the British side has appeared reactive, ill-prepared and ill-coordinated in recent weeks — a function, perhaps, of the departure of some of the key figures who shaped the Agreement. The Stalker affair, quite apart from the urgency of the issues themselves, was allowed to drift until just before Mr Stalker forced the pace of public events by publishing his book.

An inept leak distorted the presentation of the case for making permanent (but nevertheless annually reviewable) the Prevention of Terrorism Act. Worst of all, the Irish Government considers — and is letting this fact plainly be known — that the British Attorney General, Sir Patrick Mayhew, has breached assurances given by the Prime Minister and the British ambassador to Dublin that London would co-operate with new extradition legislation, however much it might have argued against it before it was passed.

The new law does, indeed, raise unnecessary snags. There may be a genuine problem arising from the risk that a British Attorney General might be called before an Irish court. But there also seems to be a reluctance in London to make the best of matters as they are. It appears to be time for the Prime Minister to take proper charge of government policy in this whole area and to show that British statesmanship can be organized and presented with the same grasp of essentials which Mr Haughey displayed yesterday.

WEEDERS OF THE WALDHEIM FILE

The Prime Minister's decision to reopen the file on six British commandos, who were executed by the Nazis after a secret wartime mission in the Aegean, is very welcome. It must be hoped that the American, West German and Austrian authorities — and all others who might help shed light on the deaths — will co-operate. There are at least three reasons why they should.

The first of these is the so-called Waldheim affair — which overshadows all else and has largely inspired the Government's decision. Whether firm evidence will be found to link the embattled Austrian president with the incident cannot yet be known. But suspicions have been aroused, allegations made in *The Times* and elsewhere, and, at the risk of sounding disingenuous, it is his innocence not his guilt which the more needs proving.

The first part of this sad story is now reasonably well-known. The commandos, accompanied by several Greeks, were captured by a German patrol while on a night-time raid off the island of Alimnia in April 1944. They were taken at first to Rhodes and thence transferred to an intelligence headquarters at Salonika, where Kurt Waldheim was stationed as a junior officer.

The International Commission of Historians which investigated President Waldheim's record for any war crimes, found the initial "W," written in his unmistakable hand, on some German records of the prisoners' interrogation — and concluded that, whatever their subsequent fate, the young Austrian officer would surely have been aware of it. Since Hitler had ordered two years previously that all enemy commandos captured should be shot (an order which breached the Geneva Convention, and was identified as a war crime at the Nuremberg trials) this presumably was what happened.

The evidence linking Waldheim with the incident is therefore more than circumstantial. It certainly justifies further inquiry. As by no means all other contemporaries are dead, there would seem to be many trails to pursue in seeking the whole truth.

The second reason is the decision which was taken in 1978 to shred all Foreign Office files on the incident. Dr David Owen who was Foreign Secretary at the time has demanded an inquiry into this — and rightly so. There are grounds for carrying this out in depth.

While weeding of Whitehall documents needs to take place in order to save the Public Records Office from sinking beneath the weight of paper, the apparently systematic elimination of most documents on this case is suspicious, to say the least. Dr Waldheim was then Secretary-General of the United Nations — and credited with an unblemished record of public service. It has been claimed that the Soviet Union was aware of Dr Waldheim's wartime record from the start. How much was known by how many in this country, before he was appointed to the UN more than a quarter of a century ago? Hard questions must be asked of those involved.

The third reason lies outside the public interest. It is that the families of the men who died deserve a fuller explanation than they have so far received. There are, of course, many — in Germany as well as in Britain — who still do not know the wartime fate of their husbands, fathers and sons. There is generally little that one can do to reassure them. But initial researches into the Alimnia affair give grounds for belief that the truth lies not far below the surface. The layers of obfuscation should be finally scraped away — for the sake of the relatives of the courageous dead, as well as for the sake of historians and politicians.

THE TRANQUILLIZER TRAP

Plans to sue certain drug manufacturers for preventable addiction to tranquilizers are certainly timely. Not since the Thalidomide tragedy has the reputation of drug manufacturers for fair dealings with their customers been so low. The publicity for the Open affair has seen to that, whatever view is taken of the merits of that case.

Patients equally feel let down by doctors — who for years have routinely prescribed tranquilizers while failing to alert the takers to the dangers of addiction. That does not mean, however, that the legal actions presently contemplated by the mental health charity, Mind, are likely to succeed.

Public anger with any manufacturer of pills and potions whose imperfect wares result in human injury, has been recognized in the new Consumer Protection Act which imposes strict liability upon the maker without the need to prove negligence. When medical treatment goes awry many patients will also argue that they would never have agreed had they known from their doctor of the risk of something going wrong.

There is no serious dispute that patients have become addicted to tranquilizers, and that the dangers of dependency have been known for some time. Many doctors have been negligent in over-hasty prescription, in failing to advise on risks, and in not spotting addiction sufficiently early. But proving any of that will be expensive and difficult.

Suing manufacturers will also be beset with problems. The Open case has clearly demonstrated the present inability of English law to deal with class actions and their funding. Despite the Law Society's praiseworthy recent proposals for non-means tested legal aid for class actions, reform in this area is unlikely to

be swift.

Existing addicts will also have the disadvantage of having to sue the makers under the existing law of negligence rather than under the new strict liability rules which come into force from March and are not retrospective. In actions against either doctors or manufacturers there may well be evidential difficulties turning on the availability of old medical notes. There will doubtless be arguments over when the patient could reasonably have been warned of the dangers of addiction and whether this was the fault of the manufacturer or the doctor. What constitutes addiction will certainly be fought over.

Even if a claim against the makers is mounted by an addict after March 1, he or she will still have to prove the defect alleged, the damage caused and the causal relationship between the two. That will not be easy either. The manufacturer will be able to rely on the controversial development risk defence which links liability to the state of scientific and technical knowledge at the time the medication is supplied, irrespective of later research developments.

None of this means that doctors and the pharmaceutical industry should be permitted to escape their duty to patients. Both should be called to account for preventable harm that they cause. But too much should not be expected of the current initiative, however laudable the intentions behind it.

At least, the public airing of the dangers of addiction may make doctors more careful. If, as Mind hopes, further government aid is provided to help wean addicts from their dependency, that will be an advance. There is, still, too, a pressing need for faster and fairer legal machinery in cases of this kind.

Over the first hurdle to EC market

From the President of the European Parliament

Sir, Those concerned about Britain's economic future will be immensely relieved at the favourable outcome of the Brussels summit (report, February 13). A failure would have dealt a devastating blow to the progress towards a single market in Europe, in which people, goods and services can move freely and without administrative restraint across the borders.

The Prime Minister and her colleagues in the European Council are to be warmly congratulated on securing a deal which applies effective budgetary discipline to the CAP (common agricultural policy) and provides the EC with a stable financial basis for future plans; and c) confirms that the No. 1 goal for Europe is the economic prosperity for all its citizens which a single market will bring.

Some difficult secondary questions remain to be resolved, not least the implications of the single-market philosophy in the agricultural sector. For example, monetary compensatory amounts were originally introduced to reduce distortion in internal EC agricultural trade, but in recent years they have come to do the opposite.

However, I am nevertheless delighted at the overall agreement which has been achieved by all 12 member states, who are now pulling in the same direction. After the hold-ups of the past few years we can now move Europe forward again, towards the completion of the single market — and beyond.

Europe's potential, economic and political, has only just begun to be harnessed. We must ensure that the renewed momentum of progress is maintained.

Yours faithfully,

HENRY FLUMER

2 Queen Anne's Gate, SW1.

From Mr Graham Kelly
Sir, I love my country, am a staunch supporter of the monarchy and respect the aims of our Prime Minister. I am also in-

tensely proud of the word "British" and all that it represents. I was, therefore, deeply ashamed, sitting in Brussels on Saturday, to witness our Prime Minister talking publicly, on BBC Television, in disparaging terms about her French colleagues.

The European Community may not be perfect, but its very existence is a tribute to democracy and dialogue. It is quite remarkable how far it has come in the face of very different national priorities. It has done so on the basis of consensus, but consensus takes time because it requires mutual respect and understanding of other people's problems and priorities.

Our Prime Minister is undoubtedly right to insist that the CAP has become unwieldy, far too expensive, and needs to be modernised. But the CAP was designed primarily for post-war France and Germany, whose farmers have been enjoying its protection for 30 years. Our own will complain just as loudly when the effects of modernising it start to be felt and they have only been enjoying it for 15 years.

Europe's leaders have now decided, by consensus, that the time to modify it cannot be put off any longer. It is no secret that sacrifices have had to be made, but sacrifices are the *sine qua non* of consensus, just as respect is the *sine qua non* of leadership.

I would venture a guess that during the last eight years our Prime Minister has had occasion herself to suggest to individuals in her Cabinet that they owed it to the country (and to the party) to keep their differences private. As a committed European, and one who sees her irrefragable contribution as essential to the continued growth of a strong, united Europe, I would respectfully ask her to apply the same criteria to the Community.

Yours etc,

GRAHAM KELLY

As from: 149 Avenue de Tervuren,
1150 Brussels, Belgium.
February 14.

More water for the Middle East

From Mr Edmund L. de Rothschild

Sir, In June, 1967, after the Six-Day War, I wrote a letter to your paper outlining a concept to reutilise a considerable number of families from the Gaza Strip 40 kilometres south towards El Arish. The idea was taken up by General Eisenhower in the USA and by Mr Harold Wilson, then Prime Minister, in the UK.

Mr Wilson wrote to me that British participation in such a project would depend on the collaboration of an international scheme for the economic development of the whole area of Israel, Jordan and Gaza Strip to El Arish and on a real political settlement between Israel and her neighbours. The idea was negated, however, by the decisions taken at the Khartoum Conference of the Arab states.

In view of the current overcrowding of the Gaza Strip, a new conceptual idea could now be considered, based on a *quid pro quo*.

1. Investigate the feasibility of offering 17,000 families housing and land in the El Arish area using desalted water either from the existing background aquifer of

brackish water or the water from the Mediterranean. The El Arish area is noted for its high-quality groves of olives. Thus the Gaza Strip area, which technically belongs to Egypt, could be extended in depth.

2. Simultaneously, further studies could be undertaken on the ambitious Qantara Depression project as to its feasibility and implementation. In brief, this project is to cut a channel from the Mediterranean and utilise the fall in the height of land to generate electricity whose use would be for electricity for the area and desalting the water in the large underground reservoir of brackish aquifers in the depression.

The area involved is vast and could be made into large rural communities. It is realized that this would involve large sums of money from the World Bank and other sources which would have to include a major international effort.

I hope that this "positive" concept may be worthwhile investigating further.

Yours very truly,

EDMUND L. DE ROTHSCHILD,

New Court,

St Swithin's Lane, ECA.

Future of NHS

From Dr David Barnes

Sir, What is necessary in the health service? In hospitals waste in catering, medical investigation and treatments is commonplace. Much surgery is notional, or optional, or frankly experimental. All is risky. (There will never be recourse to heart transplants for 100,000 who die yearly from heart disease).

Surgeons stalling Whitehall with possible grievances should be counter-productive today while so much surgery is unnecessary. The widespread acquisition of major apparatus for occasional use or investigation or treatment cannot be necessary. The provision of secretaries for so many employees is unnecessary, however restful.

Assistants abound for social workers, health visitors and nurses (there are currently nine grades of nurses) and all these require bureaucratic systems for

recordings and storage.

In general practice profligacy occurs in prescriptions, fashionable preventive routines (recent blood-pressure treatment trials suggest treatment may actually increase mortality), health-centre suites, computers, and "training": all very interesting, but substantially irrelevant to the clinical care of the mundane stuff of general practice.

Free "treatment" for all health matters is ludicrous. Overall reduction in capital and current expenditure is possible if only necessary attention is provided. Unnecessary treatment should have no premium in time or finance and the Government and the professions need to redefine necessity and their applications of that definition.

Yours etc,

DAVID BARNES,

Whites Farm,

Widford,

Nr Ware, Hertfordshire.

Overseas mail

From Professor Kenneth Mellanby

Sir, We hear many complaints about the delays in delivering inland letters. However, although the service is worse than I remember it in the 1930s and that I read about operating 100 years ago, the Post Office usually achieves its rather low standard.

Labour and CND

From Mr Keith Simpson

Sir, I would find Mr Kinnock's defence policy, as outlined in his article, "Peace process exploded" (February 12) slightly more credible if he had not sent his personal "congratulations to the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament upon 30 years of efforts to serve a nuclear-free UK" (*Sunday*, February).

CND not only argue for unilateral disarmament, but they want to dismantle Nato. Is there not a contradiction between Mr Kinnock's commitment to Nato and his support for CND?

Yours faithfully,

KEITH SIMPSON,

5 Winchfield Court,

Pale Lane,

Winchfield, Hampshire.

February 12.

Most first-class letters reach their destination the next day.

However, the delays with overseas letters are much worse. Before 1939 a letter from Paris almost invariably reached a London, or southern England address, the day after it was posted. Letters from more distant parts of Europe took two days. These letters were carried by air, in an hour from Paris. Yet letters from Paris seldom take less than four days; letters from Scandinavia take a week. Why?

Air mail from America is equally disappointing. Though many planes each day take between three and seven hours from New York, customers seldom receive letters in less than a week. Because of these delays, various accelerated systems have been created; but these may be little better. This morning I received a letter sent by Datapost from New York, at a cost of £15. It took three days, although it was marked "next-day service".

Yours faithfully,

KENNETH MELLANBY,

38 Warkworth Street,

Cambridge.

February 13.

Too much for Dr Dolittle?

From Mr B. H. Owen

Sir, So Jennings and Dr Dolittle are to suffer the indignity of revision (reports, February 13, 15). Poor Jennings's trousers must be lengthened, and his slang updated; and Dolittle's racial attitudes have obviously done too much.

It is sad to think that those who would not dream of making Elizabeth Bennet show her knees or rush to her sister's aid on a bicycle, nor have lago carted off by the Race Relations Board while Oth and Deszy continue to make it together in polychromatic bliss, nevertheless see nothing amiss with laying their sticky little fingers over these other classics. But then, they are only children's books, and children have no rights, no taste.

Then let *Treasure Island* beware! Doubloons and pieces of eight? Children know only of pence and pounds, do they not?

Yours disgustedly,

B. H. OWEN,

1 Killisier Avenue,

Telford Park, SW2.

From Mr Geoffrey Trease
Sir, The new boudlerization of children's classics, described in today's admirable leader, "Don't Doctor Dolittle" (February 15) can be matched by the insidious pressures that have in recent years been exerted upon contemporary authors. Many examples have come to my notice of timid copy editors asking for absurd changes lest some word excite the disavowal of ideological fanatics.

A boy pulls a girl on to the pavement to save her being knocked down by a car: the author is asked to cut the dirty word, "protectively". A boy volunteers for a risky task: the author is asked to substitute a girl character, quite out of character, for this, but protests (successfully) that, in some old-fashioned circles it is considered right that men or boys should take the lead in facing unknown physical dangers. In historical fiction the distortion of historical roles and attitudes is even less acceptable to the writer who is concerned with truth rather than ideological engineering.

One author well known to me, impatient at being invited to change his schoolgirl character from his original conception, was driven to retort: "I have made her lively, courageous, good-natured and an outstanding gymnast, but I have not made her intellectually

Hearing of appeals

From Mr Ludovic Kennedy

Sir, Detective Chief Superintendent McStravick (January 29) asks me to substantiate my claim that the vast majority of miscarriages of justice come about as a result of what Lord Devlin once called "the police pressing too hard against those whom they believe to be guilty". I am sending him a list of 16 cases where there is proof that it happened (Timothy Evans, Patrick Meehan, etc) and a further 37 cases where there is strong evidence that it happened.

Yours etc,

LUDOVIC KENNEDY,

Ashtown,

Avebury, Wiltshire.

February 14.

Abortion reform

From Mrs Nuala Scarisbrick

Sir, I am surprised that Dr Lindenbaum (February 3) should feel it necessary to pray in order to make known his pro-abortion views.

Even if a mother, whether member of Life or not, when told in mid-pregnancy that her baby is likely to be disabled, is distressed enough to feel that abortion is the answer, is that a matter for pointing scores? The sad fact is that pro-abortion doctors have built up such a fear and horror of handicap that it is not surprising that at a very vulnerable time some mothers do submit to their pressure to opt for abortion.

Yours faithfully,

NUALA SCARISBRICK,

Hon Administrator, Life,

118-120 Warwick Street,

Leamington Spa, Warwickshire.

February 13.

Long-distance call

From Mr John H. Gibbs

Sir, With regard to Mr Wade's letter (February 13), the red telephone box now in Koblenz is part of an exchange with Norwich, with which city Koblenz is twinned.

In the centre of Norwich there is a German yellow telephone box. It, too, is in working order. Yours faithfully,

JOHN H. GIBBS,

183 Churchchurch Road,

Norwich, Norfolk.

February 13.

Perfect timing

From Mr David Edwards

Sir, My mother recently purchased an alarm clock at a jumble sale for 10p. Needless to say the clock did not work.

Undeterred, remembering a "household hint" seen in a newspaper some 30 years ago, she placed it in a saucepan of water and boiled it for approximately 45 minutes.

To everyone's surprise the clock sprang to life and has kept perfect time ever since. Anyone for seconds?

Yours sincerely,

D. O. EDWARDS,

2 Clive House,

61 Shenfield Road,

Shenfield, Essex.

February 7.

curious (many girls and boys sadly are not). Just because she is a girl and black I am not going to depict her as a paragon at everything".

The publisher's suggestion was at once withdrawn. But it should never have been made. Authors, and their publishers, must stand up to the creeping censorship of the pressure groups.

Yours faithfully,

GEOFFREY TREASE,

1 Yomede Park,

Newbridge Road,

Bath, Avon.

February 15.

From Paul Messham

Sir, In *The Times* on the 15th

February 1988 you have made a

mistake concerning Dr Dolittle on

page 1. You have called the boy

Prince Dumpe and he is really

called Prince BUMPO. I enjoy the

books very much.

Yours sincerely,

PAUL MESSHAM (age 7),

18 Passmore,

Tinkers Bridge,

Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire.

February 15.

ON THIS DAY

FEBRUARY 18 1933

Between the two world wars

various electrical systems were

designed for a car driver to

indicate to the driver following

him what he intended to do. The

trolley bus, mentioned below, is

perhaps still lamented by some

Londoners: not only could it

accommodate over 70 passengers

but it was also virtually silent

MOTOR DRIVERS' SIGNALS

NEW ELECTRIC LIGHT DEVICE

CHANGE OF DIRECTION

From Our Motoring Correspondent

Motor-vehicle

THE ARTS

Killing pace

Part one of *The Fear*, Euston Films' new six-part series on ITV last night, gave us too much too soon. There was too much action, too many characters, too much exposition, and too many clever lines escaping from the wrong mouths.

It was as though script-writer Paul Hines and director Stuart Orme, or perhaps their producers, had resolved to make this first episode a ravishing come-on for the entire series. But it was never less than riveting. And it left an intriguing aftertaste, a sense that if the writer and director could only slow down and let their story breathe, they might achieve something truly memorable.

On the evidence of Part Two (to be shown next Wednesday) they have done exactly that. By the second episode, the story of the birth of a new breed of London criminal, with

TELEVISION

designer clothes, yuppie aspirations and the moral sensitivity of a school of piranha, has settled into a superbly paced drama of a new kind of city gang war.

Iain Glen, who plays the new style gang leader as a sort of Max Headroom without the laugh lines, has by then escaped the danger of reducing the character to a sinister cartoon. There are the makings here of a powerful study of the psychopathology of the New Right; a dark portrait of a social rodent who believes that a free market is a licence to prey on the weak.

Apart from the acting — and Glen is only one of a dozen or more finely shaded performers — *The Fear* promises to be a triumph for its young director, Stuart Orme, who has never attempted anything this ambitious before, has a wonderfully confident grasp of his medium.

A word, too, about Susannah Harker, who plays the appalling young gang leader's wife. She suggests, with beautifully delicate gestures, the dilemma of a woman whose love for her husband is exceeded only by her fear.

Michael Dean

Heavy on humour

CINEMA

Repentance (PG)
Cannon Première

A Night on the Town (PG)
Warner West End

90 Days (15)
Minema

Dragnet (PG)
Plaza

The Courier (15)
Haymarket

Time to Die (15)
ICA Cinema



Russian flight of fantasy gets bogged down: heads popping out of a ploughed field, in Tenghis Abuladze's *Repentance*

which may limit the film's western appeal. At the beginning, *Repentance* bowls along with pointed black comedy; at the end, it feels like a heavy treacle pudding.

During the Atlantic crossing, *Adventures in Babysitting* became *A Night on the Town*, which is a pity: the nondescript title hardly catches this endearing comedy's fresh, zany spirit. A 17-year-old girl is set for some boring babysitting in the Chicago suburbs. Then a phone call from a distressed friend downtown plunges her into the urban jungle along with her charges — a tomboy tot with a comic-strip mind and a winged helmet, and two lads trembling excitedly on manhood's edge.

Superficially, this seems a cross between the Teenagers in Peril school and the urban angst of *After Hours*. But the script by David Simkins, a promising newcomer, has a mind of its own. Characters undergo a rude initiation into adulthood, confronting their fantasies and fears; they get entangled with car thieves, street gangs and daredevil exploits on skyscraper windows. Chris Columbus — making his directing debut after writing scripts for Steven Spielberg — pushes his cast a little too hard, but his serious damage is done. Elisabeth Shue plays the spirited heroine; and

one of the lads is Keith Coogan — grandson of Chaplin's Kid, Jackie Coogan. Cinema must be getting old.

Experience tells us not to expect hilarity from the National Film Board of Canada, yet they managed to produce *90 Days* — a wry comic look at two male friends. The wimpish Blue plans to marry a mail-order bride from Korea, who arrives, polite but bemused, on a 90-day visa. Friend Alex, a philanderer thrown out by his wife, falls into the clutches of a mysterious woman locating top-notch sperm for artificial insemination. At first the film is too low-key for its own good, but the cross-cultural conflicts between Blue and bride-to-be are delectable. The players are engaging non-professionals; the director and co-writer is Gilles Walker.

For a film which declares itself a parody of the TV crime series, *Dragnet* spends little time on the job. Dan Akroyd's Sergeant Joe Friday — nephew of the original character played by Jack Webb — mouths homilies and penal code numbers in the same staccato vein. But the case has the camp stupidity of *Batman*, while the relationship between by-the-book Friday and his freewheeling partner (Tom Hanks) leads the film straight to *Beverly Hills Cop*. There are minor

laughs, though not enough to offset the feeling of muddle and waste.

I wish I could put *The Courier* higher up this column: its young Irish production team of Frank Deasy and Joe Lee deserve encouragement. Their aim was to make a commercial thriller that reflects contemporary Ireland. The Dublin setting is real enough, with faceless buildings, and green buses playing the road alongside the hero — a motorbike courier who ferries packets of heroin and sets out to nail Mr Big. But what is the point of a realistic background if characters and situations are hand-me-downs? Gabriel Byrne and Ian Bannen supply professional ballast to a cast of young unknowns.

Time to Die, from Bolivia, offers the kind of unpretentious pleasures we used to get from Randolph Scott Westerns. Gabriel Garcia Marquez wrote the script, reworking in pot-boiler form some of the themes from *Chronicle of a Death Foretold*. A man returns home after 18 years' imprisonment for killing a bully; the dead man's sons find revenge more difficult than they thought. A compact tale, crisply handled by Jorge Ali Triana, a new director with TV experience.

Geoff Brown

BERLIN FILM FESTIVAL

Made, unmade

Alex Cox turns his hand to political satire with *Walker*, unveiled in the Berlin competition. The story of William Walker, an American adventurer who, in 1855, marched into Nicaragua with the financial backing of Cornelius Vanderbilt and proclaimed himself president, is used as a parable about current US politics in Central America.

It is done as a parody of the spaghetti Western, but it is too ludicrous to be dramatic and too ridiculous to be funny. There was some applause mingled with the cat calls: the Berlin audience is generally kindly to liberal intentions, particularly if they are anti-American.

International film festivals are places where reputations are made and unmade. Werner Herzog's stock falls very low with the lifeless *Cobra Verde*. Klaus Kinski plays a 19th century bandit and slave trader in Africa. With a minimal script and dreadful dubbed English dialogue, Kinski writhes, grimaces and gesticulates against *National Geographic* backgrounds.

Made in Berlin this year, however, is the name of a first-time director from mainland China, Zhang Yimou. Yimou was the photographer of the prize-winning *Yellow Earth*. Moving along the spectrum, he calls his debut *Red Sorghum*. The film is a visionary spectacle set in rural China in the Twenties and Thirties — a ferocious tale of folk lore, bandits, sold brides and the atrocities of the invading Japanese.

Berlin also confirms the reputation of an outstanding young Israeli director, Amos Guttman. *Hina, King of Jerusalem*, his third feature film, is set in a military hospital in besieged Jerusalem at the end of the Forties. Guttman makes this bizarre story extraordinarily gripping, by constantly sustaining the electric tensions between the characters.

David Robinson

Mature mastery

Philharmonia/
Sacher
Royal Festival Hall

Anne-Sophie Mutter's Brahms in this hall last season was one of the most assured and sophisticated concerto performances of the year. Last night she put down an equally memorable marker for 1988, meeting the contrasting demands of Mozart and Stravinsky with a formidable technique, stylistic certainty and, most of all, an astonishing maturity of interpretation.

She is still aged only 25. Luckily, there is no sign of her settling into a rut of routine virtuosity (which, as it goes, is one that most other players would willingly inhabit). Her repertoire is admirably unsettled — she plays a new Lutoslawski at this year's Proms — and, more important still, her

CONCERTS

attitude towards every piece is still boldly investigative.

Even Mozart's Concerto in A, K219, was given a reading which, under its veneer of manicured silkiness, was an adventure in articulation and nuance. The slow movement was delineated in such winning shades of a whisper that no one present should have dared to breathe during its course.

She executed the sardonic glissandos and harmonics of Stravinsky's Violin Concerto with equal panache. Stravinsky might have been surprised by the quasi-romantic expressivity Mutter found in "Aria II".

It was a pity that the outer movements were occasionally marred by lack of cohesion between soloist and orchestra, conducted by the octogenarian Paul Sacher. Mechanistic music which is imperfectly coordinated rather loses its point.

The Philharmonia strings had not been at their sweetest earlier in Haydn's Symphony No. 78, perhaps because rehearsal time was stretched too thinly over such a substantial programme. But they caught the spirit (if not exactly every detail) of Bartók's *Musica for Strings, Percussion and Celesta*, which Sacher directed with vigorous authority. So he should; he commissioned the work and conducted its premiere, 51 years ago.

Richard Morrison

Lontano/Martinez
St John's, Smith
Square

In Tuesday night's welcome concert of rarely performed music from New York, Feldman's *The Viola in My Life II* was somewhat a casualty of the St John's acoustics, which made individual attacks too clear and worked against the softness and blending that music requires; Clare Finimore, however, showed the right attitude in simply allowing the solo phrases to happen.

In starting contrast, John Chilingworth rampaged with a will through the heroic virtuosity of Wuorinen's Chamber Concerto for Cello and 10 instruments, where the ensemble, conducted by Odaline de la Martinez, were effective in their rapid matchings of sonority and gesture to those of their heroic soloist. It might even have seemed, from the translucent beauty achieved at odd moments, that the end of all this gabbling activity was to attain a gentleness of Feldman.

Two solos without ensemble were equally provocative. Tom Johnson's *Falling*, an elegantly self-reverent piece in which a double-bass player talks about the difficulty of talking while playing, was brought off excellently by a quiet, straight-faced, earnestly striving Kevin Rundell. And the flautist Ingrid Culford revealed James Dillon's *Sgothan* — not American at all, of course, but Glaswegian-Darmstadt — as a piece of extraordinary gracefulness.

Jane Manning was the remaining soloist, her account of Carter's *A Mirror on Which To Dwell* flawed by wobble and an insistence on expression. Also if she (quite reasonably) thought a transatlantic accent suitable for Cage's setting of Joyce in *The Wonderful Widow of 18 Springs*, why not for Carter's settings of Elizabeth Bishop, whose tone of voice is so American?

Paul Griffiths

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Swings or roundabouts

OPERA

Il seraglio/
Carmen
Northcott, Exeter

With their grant reassured and their artistic policy somewhat refashioned, Opera 80 are back on the road again. This travelling troupe are performing at 21 different venues from St Austell to Ulverston; but their regular audiences will notice some changes.

Il seraglio and *Carmen* are given simple, naturalistic productions. The first lacks both the zest and the flair of the company at its best, but survives, thanks to the spirit of its well chosen cast. The

second sinks as a miscalculation from start to finish.

Michael McCarthy, for *Seraglio*, with his designer Simon Banham, has made considerable virtue out of peripatetic necessity. A gaunt pair of grey towers frame a space of drab dejection. Pedrillo (Adrian Thompson at his most lovable) and Blonde (Jill Washington as a winsomely untamable shrew) sit huddled like piles of old rags, and only a pale crescent moon and moth-eaten Turkish rug offer any distraction from discreetly produced performances of pluck and potency.

The dialogue coaching could be spruicer; Stephen Barlow's tempos, in the pit, could be more excitingly interrelated. But Jennifer Rhys-Davies's Constanze and, particularly, Alasdair Elliott's

Belmonte, have taken Mozart's pulse; and both Arwell Huw Morgan as Osmin and Jonathan Veira as a rather plebeian Pasha know what they are about.

Attention is, alas, focused in all the wrong places in *Carmen*. To manage without space, chorus, and a crowd of gamins is one thing; to attempt Bizet's opera without an adequate Carmen or Don José is quite another. Both Colette McGahon and Nicholas Buxton seem ill at ease in their parts, and the total lack of sensuousness and physicality in their voices or their bodies was echoed, on the night I attended, in the bloodless conducting of Stephen Barlow.

Hilary Finch

GALLERY

Fred Williams
Serpentine Gallery

Fred Williams's last series of oil paintings (at the Serpentine until February 24) depict the harsh Australian North West interior with a disturbing simplicity. A thin layer of red paint covers most of the surface. Shortly before his death the artist confessed "there's only a cupful of paint" in "Red Landscape, 1981". The few interruptions to the revealed crust of our planet are attached in the form of pure lumps of paint. The technique

is crude, the scrub an irritation to the bold land shapes, yet these paintings conjure strong reactions out of thin air and heavy earth.

Williams developed a fleetly independent style, much emulated by other Australian painters. The impact of the Australian outback is so strong that there are bound to be similarities with other painters of the same subject. Michael Andrews handled his recent series of Ayers Rock in a completely different fashion, yet Williams's "Mount Nameless (afternoon)" will strike chords with the British viewer. However, he had none of the Surreal tendencies of Drysdale or the ironic Romanticism of

Nolan. His is an unadorned harsh gaze at the landscape.

Williams may not have many connections with other 20th century landscape artists, but his roots are deep in the landscape tradition. The heat and misleading distances encourage a two-dimensional approach.

The artist explored the Pilbara region in the aeroplane of the chairman of CRA, as well as by foot and car. The oil paintings were executed nearly two years after these journeys and the gouaches, which were done on the spot. They have the intensity of Lorenzetti's evocation of the country around Siena.

Alistair Hicks

Sty-at-home husband and wife

THEATRE

The Place with
the Pigs
Cottesloe

Athol Fugard acknowledges the case of Pavel Navrotsky — a Red Army deserter who spent 41 years hiding in a pigsty — as the source of this lacerating comedy.

He could also have cited the Russian fable of "The Wise Gudgeon", a creature that managed to live for 100 years by digging a hole in the mud, never going out to play cards or to get drunk, and only emerging to snatch food when everything else is asleep.

Fugard's hero has been a hider since childhood, and desertion only gives him a pretext for going the whole hog. True to fairy tale logic, it also proves to be an extreme form of aversion therapy.

When we first meet him he has already been in the sty for 10 years, and driven into such desperation by the "two philosophical realities — Pig shit and Time" that he is preparing to make a spectacular return from the dead on the occasion of the village's victory celebrations.

However, last minute nerves and the fact that his uniform has been devoured by moths dissuade him from this foolhardy gesture. Instead, he sends his wife along, and is much moved when she returns with a posthumously awarded medal commemorating his valour; and even she sheds a few quiet tears after



Extreme version of a marital couple on a classical pattern: Linda Bassett and Jim Broadbent

the speeches on her years of lonely bereavement.

That is one example of the variety and fun which Fugard develops from a seemingly hopeless situation.

As much as any of his previous work, this play demonstrates his gift for driving characters into a life-defying dead end, and then showing them getting on with their lives. "Whose life?" Pavel demands; and he has a point, as his wife Praskovya can at least escape from the sty to do the washing and make soup.

Then there are moments of exciting novelty, as when a butterfly miraculously visits his field domain. Unfortunately, one of the pigs eats it, whereupon the enraged Pavel

leaps into the pen and stabs it to death.

"Dear me", Praskovya remarks, when she discovers this scene of carnage; and at this typical comment you do not know whether to laugh or cry. It is funny because it is so disproportionately level-headed. In a situation as crazy as this, sanity looks like madness.

It is also moving because, in Linda Bassett's beautifully tactful performance, it shows her unconditional acceptance of the human being who shares her life. In one sense, she and Jim Broadbent's Pavel present an extreme version of the classic marital pattern: the self-occupied male booming philosophical abstractions and pleas for sympathy; the woman quietly getting on with the day's jobs.

What gives it added force here is the sight of a wife treating a husband with unquestioning respect when he has lost all other claim to it. She breaks only when the despairing Pavel climbs into a pen to join the pigs, at which point she seizes a stick and beats him back into manhood.

In the author's production, I am not convinced by the uplifting final scene. Otherwise, in their serio-comic routines, and in their one escape under a paradisaical night sky (Pavel, dressed as a woman, demanding a nice shiny brooch to complete his disguise) these partners are a joy.

Irving Wardle

Grey garbles

Timon of Athens
Haymarket Studio
Leicester

This late Shakespeare is not an easy play to admire on the stage, unless every whit of skill and imagination available to the production team is poured into it.

Not that opportunities for seeing the work often occur: there appear to have been no more than 10 productions in this country since World War Two.

The hero starts on a plateau of wealth, pressing feasts on flatterers; but, like some unwisely confident cartoon character, he is already several steps over the precipice of bankruptcy. When he recognizes this, he plummets down into extreme misanthropy, retires to the woods, calls down plagues (mostly sexual) on human kind, and moosches off to die, grandly gloomy and selfish to the end.

Simon Usher opts for a spare production that is certainly not feast for the eyes. Jocelyn Herbert's set, described by Chris Peachment earlier this week, places three open door frames on a squeezed hexagon, the colours ranging between pale grey and light grey. After the interval the frames are grouped together so that the verticals become the tree trunks of the wood. This means no effective contrast between splendour and beggary, and the holy restraint makes you long for

some natural grub and clutter. Minimalism is what gave refinement a bad name.

The characters wear grey too, vaguely modern three-piece suits, and maybe the impression would not be so cheerless if there was colour in the verse and rather less mangling of it. Anthony Douse's melodious cynic, Apemantus, is a rare exception.

Philip Brook, as Timon's loyal steward, can give a tremor to the word "dream" but his speech bitterly mimicking the different evasions of the false friends is delivered without taking a breath, making the contents impossible to disentangle.

Brian Bovell's "Rasta" Alcibiades, evidently en route from Jamaica to conquer Babylon, speaks law and war to rhyme with *jar*, and doubles the length of certain syllables: "What is thy nee-ame?"

And Guy Williams, who tackles the title role, seems to have qualities as a comic actor. When chances for sardonic humour come his way he grabs them to some purpose, but the frantic tirades, abuse and murky rhetoric are outside his range.

It is charming to hear fragments of music by Gavin Bryars steal across the action, as Mahler's did when Dirk Bogarde "died" in Venice. But, without music and colour in the verse, the evening is flat and unprofitable.

Jeremy Kingston



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BOOKS

Ghost in the piano

Peter Ackroyd on the wife's portrait of the composer: flats, sharps, but not naturals

Of all modern composers, William Walton is one of the most mysterious. The boy from Oldham ended up in self-imposed Italian exile, the somewhat exotic nature of his life reflecting the peculiarities of his temperament and of his genius. He could be shy but he could also be a monstrous philanderer; his work seems to come from some kind of haunted self-communing, and yet from this account by his wife he seems to have composed largely out of sheer bloody-minded competitiveness. So what is the facade and, if we take off one mask, will we find another beneath it?

It is not in the nature of this book to provide any definite answer. The story is one of ascent from (relative) rags to (relative) riches, at least in a creative sense, but Susana Walton begins her account somewhere in the middle of this odyssey — at the time of her meeting with Walton in Argentina in 1948, and their subsequent marriage. This was one of Walton's strokes of genius and, if Susana Walton only really seems interested in her late husband's life after that time, her enthusiasm for the last 35 years is justified. This is less a biography than a memoir or what is sometimes known as a "portrait".

"Warts and all" is the phrase generally used in such a context, and indeed there are a number of warts prominently on display. William Walton was not the easiest man in the world — sometimes pessimistic, sometimes rebarbative, sometimes brusque; if he had not been a composer he might have been an unusually difficult Mayor of Oldham. And yet it is one of the great strengths of his character that he effortlessly transcended his place of origin. From Susana Walton's brief account of his earlier years one receives the impression that he simply bumbled his way forward, content to scrounge off his friends while trying painfully and slowly to compose —

WILLIAM WALTON
Behind the Facade
By Susana Walton
Oxford, £12.95

notable benefactors were, of course, the Sitwells who supported him for something like 15 years after he left Oxford University. It might seem curious, too, how this northerner managed to fit in so easily with Bohemian and aristocratic life — if he was not with the Sitwells he was enjoying the company (to coin a phrase) of a certain Lady Wimborne — unless we assume that his apparently wayward and uncertain track was guided by an ambition that he never chose to reveal. So there may well be a facade somewhere, but it concealed a self which no one ever really saw.

Perhaps not even his wife, who in fact emerges from this never less than interesting story much more clearly than her husband. Tough, resourceful, fiery, she is clearly formidable when roused. She is also a very good gossip, and there are some intriguing stories here about Britten, Auden, Malcolm Sargent (her dislike for him was apparently shared by her husband), Laurence Olivier, and many others. Some of the anecdotes do not necessarily rise above the level of dinner-party conversation, but she has a sharp eye for character.

Although she dutifully chronicles her husband's triumphs — *Facade*, *Belshezar's Feast*, the two symphonies, the concertos and the quartets suggest that Walton's progress, like that of many British artists, was from a hard-edged and parodic experimentalism to an indigenous melancholy of lyricism — the interesting things in this book really have nothing to do with music.

As a result Walton himself remains a little out of focus. Olivier described him as "a more, rather child", and certainly, even in this highly



GLYN BOYD HART

sympathetic narrative, the first adjective seems accurate enough. Walton is never really visible in *in toto*. Perhaps this is appropriate in another sense, however, since it exactly mirrors his own status in this country. Unlike novelists or dramatists, composers have never really had any definite place in English culture — they remain anonymous or at least undervalued and, to judge from the number of patronizing remarks that Susana Walton remembers, unexpected.

That was, no doubt, why Walton enjoyed living abroad. But his self-imposed exile had all the usual disadvantages of that situation — principal among them the fear, and then the positive certainty, that you have been forgotten by your erstwhile compatriots. This fear was compounded in

Walton's case by the fact that after 1940, as his wife says, most of his major orchestral compositions had been the result of commissions from American orchestras. There is a very affecting moment when Walton, on hearing the news that the Queen wished to grant him the Order of Merit, broke down and cried. "To think," he said, "the Queen actually knows I am alive." And this when he was only 65, the unhappy scene emphasizing the fate of many English composers — neglected, criticized, and then rewarded rather late in the day.

Susana Walton might seem to be an unsuitable chronicler of such a life — "I know next to nothing about music to this day," she cheerfully admits. But that was no doubt one of the reasons why Walton loved

her. It is always a mistake to marry someone with the same interests: there become so many reasons for disagreement. And so the Oldham boy ended up on Ischia, protected and cosseted by a wife who was the best possible companion. She rescued him and, although there are heavy intimations that his philandering did not altogether cease even in the last years of his life, it is clear that she created the conditions in which Walton and his music could flourish. For that alone she ought to be praised. And if in *Behind the Facade* her husband still remains a mystery, Susana Walton is perhaps being more accurate than she realizes: he was a mystery to himself, too. Self-critical, insecure, his last words on earth were "Don't leave me, please don't leave me."

non Hemlock squashed by his own sliding shelves, and climaxes in a sea chase and a dose of *glasnost* spying. In between *unofficial* Department of Trade sleuth Simon Bognor flits enthusiastically among more jokes, literary puns, *bon mots*, and jokes-within-jokes than any fictional detective has ever done before in history. Great fun.

● *Dying to Meet You*, by B.M. Gill (*Hodder & Stoughton*, £6.95). Novella-length psychodrama of the man-falls-in-love-with-woman-in-photo school. Artificial pianist finds real life version of the snap, gains an obsession, loses sanity, and moves to a climax which is the only disappointing part of a chilling tale.

● *Dead Meat*, by William G. Tappley (*Collins*, £9.95). Salmon fishing in remote Maine lakes is not my idea of a perfect starting point, but Tappley's fine writing and characterization and gift for telling a good story overcome resistance. Attorney to the way rich Brady Coyne gets involved in Indian territorial claims and discovers louches and fatal goings-on in remote resort hotel.

● *Murder Takes A Partner*, by Haughton Murphy (*Collins*, £9.95). Retired Wall Street lawyer and man about the expensive side of town Reuben Frost dabbles in the death of a New York choreographer. The jacket blurb quotes megadancer Baryshnikov: "Takes a witty look at the ballet world and serves up a nifty murder puzzle." Sounds unlikely, but who am I to argue?

Case of the Inner Self

CRIME

Marcel Berlins

THE NEW YORK TRILOGY
By Paul Auster
Faber, £10.95



Auster: south wind of change but hasn't delivered any odds. Vanishing ex-con lands sexy shammy Kinsey Milborne with \$25,000 to pass on to victims of his drunk driving. Milborne is witty, clever and is beginning to show welcome signs of vulnerability.

● *Death's Bright Angel*, by Janet Neel (*Constable*, £9.95).

Northern executive of failing fabrics company battered to death on London visit: ramifications hit Whitehall and the engaging civil servant Francesca Wilson. First time author Neel clearly knows her business and finance, and plots intelligently. Only the stilted dialogue is a let down.

● *Death and the Transports of Tedium*, by Hazel Wynn Jones (*Collins*, £9.95). Lively film set whodunnit in 1950s Italy. Star of tatty metropolitan epic poisoned, exuberant jealousies abound, some nice touches of *la not so Dolce Vita*, and a continuity girl (the author's own vocation) as heroine. A most enjoyable debut.

● *Death in Tokyo*, by Guy Stanley (*Michael Joseph*, £11.95). A good first, with a Tokyo tabloid journal as hero investigating small-time crook's drowning and uncovering murky side of Japanese big business behaviour. Too much detail about Japanese customs, but a strong feel for plot and place promises well. Perhaps he won't try quite so hard next time.

● *Brought to Book*, by Tim Heald (*Macmillan*, £9.95). It opens splendidly with publisher and pornographic Ver-

Middling man

NOVEL OF THE WEEK

Victoria Glendinning

RECOVERY
By Stanley Middleton
Hutchinson, £10.95

the beginnings of a new friendship with a pretty colleague.

It's the flat record of life without mystery or glamour. Laborious efforts at social communication are laboriously transcribed. Many cups of instant coffee are consumed, and some biscuits. The weather is never very good or very bad, but it rains a lot. So why do we want to read about it?

Middleton's prose is baffling, too. A character in this book describes an audition where he has to read the part "as if it were written in some difficult, outlandish foreign language, Finnish or Estonian". That is how one reads Middleton. The lumpy rhythm of some sentences makes them virtually incomprehensible. "Bedding plants, nemesis chiefly, ageratum prospered, but Gill had always refused to grow such." Reading the book a second time everything seems perfectly clear: one has learnt, as it were, to understand Estonian, and every now and then there is a flash of magic or an

unforgettable, mysterious diamond of a phrase, as when one of Job's daughters talks to her baby with "a grown-up brevity of love".

Middleton's seeming clumsiness of style is, you begin to realize, essential to his enterprise. Someone recites a Yeats poem, and the hearers are caught by "the powerful blarney of words". But for Middleton's characters poetry, like passion, anxiety, loneliness, and the terror of death, is concealed behind a facade of doggedly objective language and ritualized behaviour.

Middleton man has glimpses of different and glorious worlds to which he has marginal access — in this case music, and the applied arts of being a good teacher, a good friend, a good parent. But while music brings ecstasy and affection sustains, there's a dun-coloured acceptance that no one ever understands another person perfectly, or fulfils his own artistic aspirations. Life is an exercise in damage limitation.

"I know there are things beyond me, so I don't take them on," says Job. There is grandeur in Stanley Middleton's narrowness. If he is stilted and provincial, so was Thomas Hardy. If he writes apparently random dialogue, so did Henry Green. If he draws the same figures in the same urban landscape over and over again, so did Lowry. Middleton man lives, and will survive.

Classy nasties

FICTION

Gillian Greenwood

NEW SEED FOR OLD

By Simon Raven
Frederick Muller, £10.95

THE BATTLE OF WAGRAM

By Gilles Lapouge

Translated by John Brownjohn
Hutchinson, £11.95

Courtly Lover from the Age of Chivalry.

Above all, fate dictates his life. After an innocent student prank, he is accused of Jacobinism and must expiate his heresy by serving in the regiment of the Duke and Duchess of Saxe-Salza. The Duchess selects him, or thinks

she does, as her lover. She exacts obedience from Otto as Colonel-Proprietor of his regiment, but maddened by love and thwarted by fate she declines beautifully: "The Sorrows of Young Werther" reposed permanently on her bedside table."

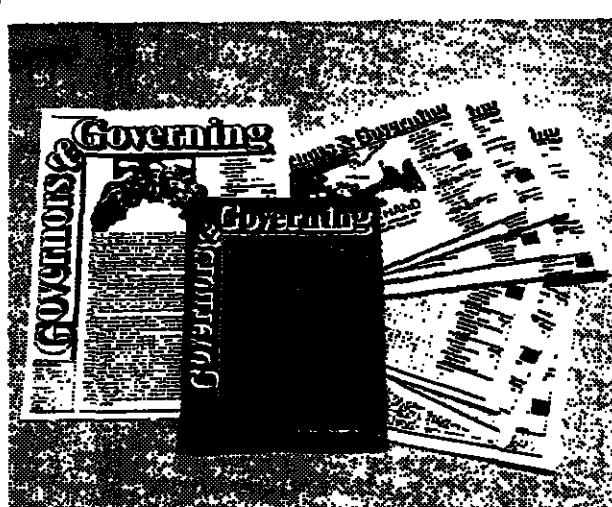
Such a brief account does not do justice to the romance's complexity. The characters are vehicles for ideas, and 18th-century conflicts and philosophies are debated as Europe is torn apart. Chance and the movements of history are the real protagonists in this book. It is rather dense, and sometimes becomes bogged down in its no doubt very accurate rendering of the progression of argument and war. For the most part, however, it is a splendid, fanciful recreation of Viennese high society watching and playing war: the ancient Duchess Gertrud presides like some deity of wit and sophistry.

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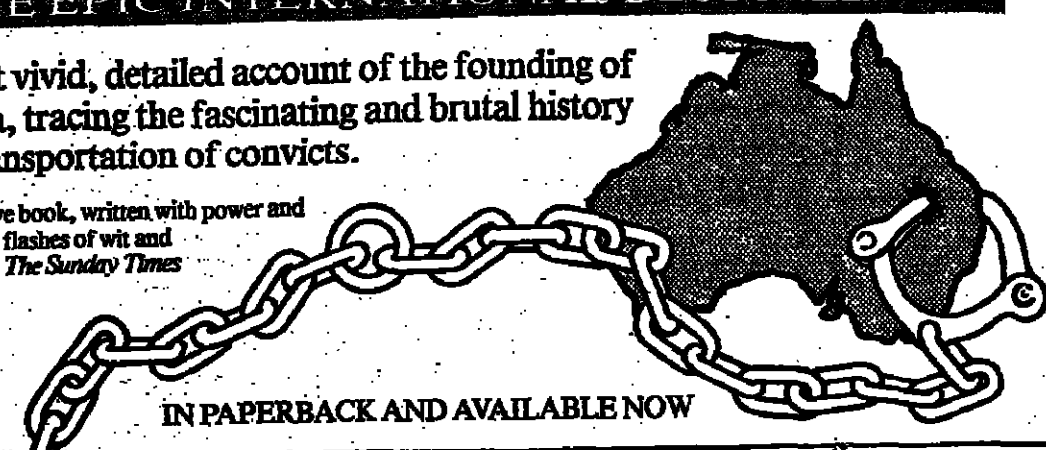
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Dreams and Delusions, by Fritz Stern (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £18) Essays on the drama of German history this century by modern historian who emigrated to the US in 1938.

Florence Nightingale in the Crimean War 1854-56, edited by Sue M. Goldie (Manchester University, £35) Her letters.

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HEALTH

Costs of tranquillity

The Sixties saw the advent of Valium.

The Seventies passed in a welter of prescriptions, and now, it seems, the 'happy pill' is a horror story.

Liz Hodgkinson asks who is to blame

Few prescription drugs have ever been subject to such a complete reversal of fortune as tranquillizers. Initially hailed as the 20th century's wonder drugs, they are now believed to cause far more problems than they were ever prescribed to solve. And as Valium celebrated its 25th anniversary last year, it is perhaps a significant time to ask whether these drugs still have a real future in medicine.

A group of 80 legal firms who represent tranquillizer addicts are now proposing to sue pharmaceutical companies for alleged negligence in supplying drugs increasingly regarded as "addictive". If it is accepted that tranquillizers such as Valium, Librium and Ativan can cause serious dependency and withdrawal problems, why did nobody spot it a very long time ago?

The simple answer is that none of the researchers tested for dependence. Heather Ashton says. She is a doctor and reader in clinical psychopharmacology at Newcastle University, who also treats difficult withdrawal cases. "It never seems to have crossed their minds that such drugs could cause dependency."

"Modern tranquillizers came in as a replacement for barbiturates, extremely dangerous drugs which could be fatal in overdose and were also known to be highly addictive. Tranquillizers were safe from that point of view, as overdoses don't kill. They were also not seen as addictive, as people tended never to come off them. They were initially considered to be a drug that one could take for ever, without suffering harm. By 1979 about 30 million prescriptions in the UK were being written out a year."

The realization that all was not well came in 1980, Ashton says, when Professor Malcolm Lader, of the Institute of Psychiatry in London, published the first papers showing that people on normal doses became disturbed if they took the drugs for any length of time.

"We did know at the time that they were similar to barbiturates, but they gave a wider choice of substance," Lader says.

Benzodiazepine tranquillizers

were invented in the 1950s by Dr Leo Sternbach, of Hoffmann-La Roche, the giant Swiss drug company which now markets three of the best known brand names - Valium, Librium and Mogadon. Sternbach discovered that a new chemical he was working on could sedate and relax animals without any apparent adverse side-effects. The first human trials showed the same thing - the drugs sedated and reduced anxiety, yet allowed people to go about their daily lives.

Benzodiazepine tranquillizers are, crudely, general anaesthetics used in sub-anaesthetic doses. Although they have many names - diazepam, chlordiazepoxide, lorazepam, oxazepam, alprazolam - they all work in much the same way. They can be short, intermediate or long-acting. The long-acting tend to be used as hypnotics, or sleeping pills, whereas the short-acting ones, of which Ativan (lorazepam) is the best known, are often prescribed for a specific crisis.

When the new drugs were first marketed in 1960 they became instantly popular. Many people felt perfectly well on the drugs, and they were soon prescribed to help with examination nerves, for flu, muscle spasms, grief at bereavement and general anxiety.

"In the era of the permissive society, people expected to be able to take a pill for everything," Ashton says.

"It's easy to blame doctors for over-prescribing these pills, but there was tremendous pressure from patients. So many people wanted to go on taking the drugs."

Support groups claim that about one million people are addicted to tranquillizers in this country. Some doctors are now saying that all benzodiazepines should be withdrawn. Others, such as Lader, feel that they have a very limited use for cases of chronic anxiety, although Lader does not believe that they should be given for more than six weeks at a time, as dependency can set in.

"There is a definite case to be made out for tranquillizers as an acute form of treatment, to tide people over something specific," Ashton says. "They are still front-line drugs for treating convulsions, and are very good for this problem. They don't cure the

convulsions, of course, but they enable patients to calm down."

Ron Lacey of MIND, the mental health charity, says that his organization has been monitoring tranquillizers for many years and now feels that there is an extremely limited place for them. "We are not saying they should all be withdrawn, as they are useful for acute insomnia and anxiety. But they should be a rarely, not a commonly, prescribed drug."

Dr Peter Tyrer, a psychiatrist who runs a specialized tranquillizer withdrawal unit at Mapperton Hospital near Nottingham, feels that a great deal of nonsense is talked about tranquillizer withdrawal. "It's been made out to be terrible and difficult," he comments. "But our research shows that 50 per cent of patients don't have any symptoms at all." Tyrer works closely with local GPs to offer a mixture of self-help and medical help. "We treat people entirely in outpatients, with our eight-week withdrawal

programme. The aim is to get them permanently off their drugs in that time, with a 20 to 25 per cent reduction in their dosage per week." Some people, Tyrer believes, are probably better off continuing with the drugs. These are elderly people who say that they sleep better and their arthritis is less trouble when they take the drugs.

On Monday the Princess of Wales officially opened the Slade Road Tranquillizer Unit in Birmingham, which helps addicts to come off their drugs by using psychological methods. Moira Hamlin, the psychologist who runs the unit, says: "It's nonsense to be taken off the drugs without being offered strategies for coping with the stress. Patients learn assertiveness skills, how to increase their self-esteem, how to change their attitudes and, most of all, how to think positively."

Earlier this week it was announced that the Council for Involuntary Tranquillizer Addiction, a volunteer group set up about a year ago in Nottingham, was joining forces with solicitors

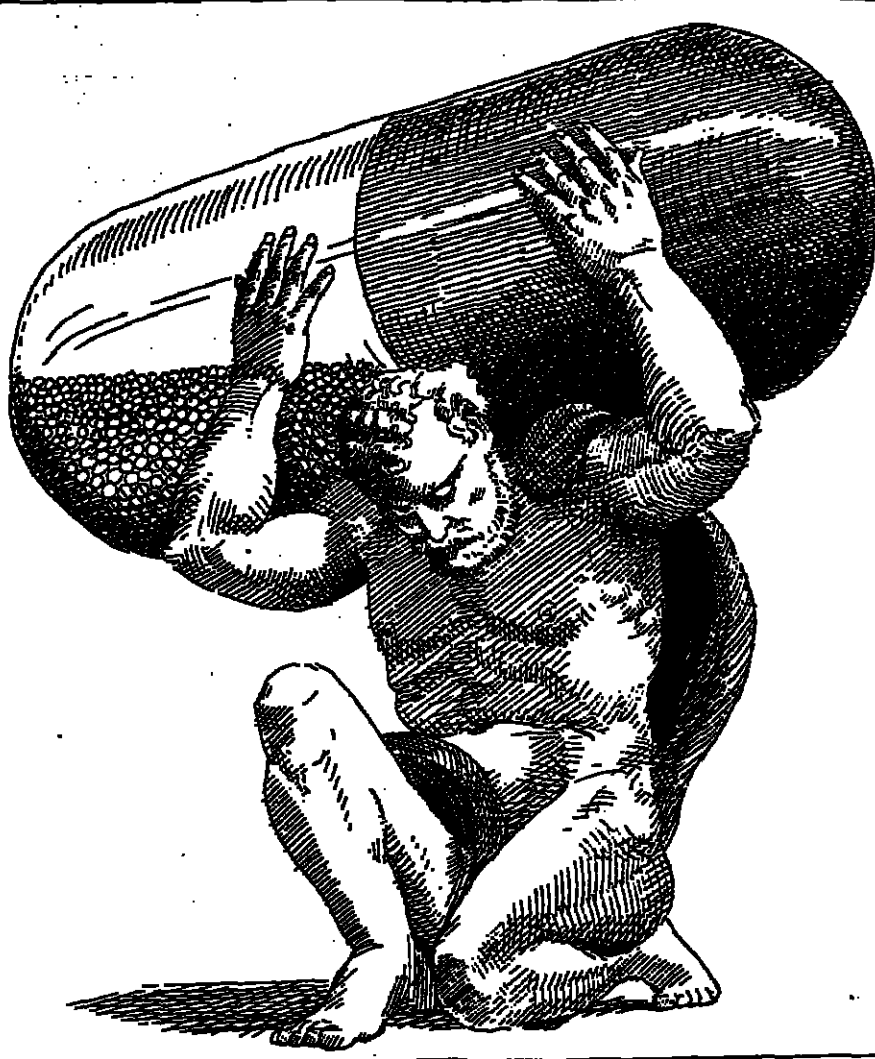
to fight "the largest legal battle of its kind" against the drug companies. The council wants to find out whether there are cases to answer, and will then establish a precedent for suing the companies. The outcome will probably be that individuals have to fight their own cases. MIND is putting its weight behind the first test case to secure damages for addicts.

Meanwhile, a new tranquillizer, marketed as non-addictive, will be available on prescription from April. Called buspirone, it works in a completely different way to the benzodiazepines and in a 10-year trial in the United States, where it has been available for a year, it has shown little, if any, addiction potential.

But is the drug really a breakthrough - or just history repeating itself?

"We shall just have to wait and see," Ashton says. "The search for the truly safe drug is always going on, but we have to ask whether drugs of any kind are the best way of dealing with everyday troubles."

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FRANCIS MOSLEY

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttford

Heart-felt cry

"Please, daddy, don't let me die," was allegedly the anguished cry of seven-year-old Claire Wise, who, like Matthew Collier, is having to wait for a bed at the Birmingham Children's Hospital. Claire's parents have done their best to keep the news of Matthew's death from her, but publicity surrounding the treatment of congenital heart disease has caused anxiety and misery to many families in their position. Much of this is unnecessary and due to the lumping together of all patients with a wide variety of congenital heart diseases as "holes in the heart" children.

Simple holes in the heart are comparatively common and easy to deal with. Matthew suffered from a complex series of heart defects; the atrial-septal defect, the hole, was the least of his problems. He also had malformed pulmonary and tricuspid heart valves and

the right ventricle of his heart was very under-developed. Without surgery, he would only have lived another month or two.

The operation has a high mortality rate, around 10 per cent, and in another 5 or 6 per cent of cases it is not totally successful. But the Birmingham cardiologists have been treating cases broadly similar to Matthew's for long enough to see many reach adult life.

The complexity of the surgery needed to correct Matthew Collier's problems should not be taken, as the norm in children's cardiac surgery, and if massive publicity is to be given to cases of this sort, many of which are doomed to have unhappy outcomes, misery will be unnecessarily inflicted on thousands of families who have less complex heart problems and therefore less to worry about.

Instructive: of the 493 patients there, 106 are psychopaths. A study in 1984 showed that 36 per cent of psychopaths discharged from Broadmoor were likely to commit further crimes, but that these crimes were less violent than those which had resulted in their original incarceration. Even so, 10 per cent of the discharged patients later committed a violent or sexual crime. A survey of other special hospitals showed that 44 per cent of discharged psychopaths re-offended violently, 38 per cent non-violently.

Cheese alert

The sight of goats grazing may epitomize the rural idyll, but it is anathema to many public health officials who have long campaigned for the same standards for goats' milk as cows' milk. The case of the London housewife who bought Anari medium fat whey goat milk cheese, produced by Vicarage Farm Products, from a health food shop will give them ammunition, for the cheese was subsequently shown to be teeming with bacilli, *Listeria monocytogenes*. This rare, but in untreated cases 75 per cent fatal, cause of meningitis in adults rather more frequently causes abortion, intra-uterine death and serious disease in the first few days of a baby's life. The housewife developed meningitis; pasteurization would have destroyed the bacilli, and saved her a very nasty illness.

Listeriosis was first described in 1926 in rabbits and guinea pigs, and by 1929 was recognized as an occasional cause of disease in humans. The signs and symptoms are manifold and it can attack practically any organ, including the heart.

Plans for better care?

Medical insurance may be one option, but it does not have all the answers

If there is one thing that is certain in the current speculation surrounding the future of the National Health Service, it is that the private sector is going to have a much bigger role to play, and the numbers of people enrolled in private health insurance schemes will rise far higher than the present five million.

Publicity about long waiting lists is one factor. Much more crucial is the suggestion that the Government is thinking of creating positive incentives - tax relief for medical insurance contributions is one suggestion, some kind of health voucher system is another - to encourage individuals to opt for the private sector for at least part of their health treatment. Charges for some treatments which could be paid for by private medical insurance, is another suggestion said to be under consideration.

Can private medical insurance offer a viable alternative for the consumer?

George Mascall, of Sun Alliance Health First, says: "Private medical insurance at the moment is a complement not an alternative to National Health treatment, which is what we have always stressed. It is intended to cope with short term problems that can

be solved with specialist treatment or surgery, not long term or incurable conditions. Insurers will have to look very carefully at the kind of benefits they offer."

And possibly the kind of benefits they do not offer. Most medical insurers do not cover normal pregnancy and childbirth. Some also exclude "pregnancy related disorders", the definition of which could be the subject of endless debate.

All insurance documents have clauses referring to "pre-existing ailments": either you cannot claim for treatment for things you have wrong already, or you have to pay an increased premium. One scheme, Prime Health, will take you on at the normal rates provided you do not make a claim for treatment of the pre-existing ailment for the first two years.

From the financial point of view, exclusion clauses are

prudent business. But Roy Clarke, managing director of BUPA, the biggest and best known medical insurer in the country, dislikes the way many of the new arrivals in the health market refuse to insure the elderly. "While I am not in favour of tax relief on individual subscriptions in general, I do believe the government should consider it for the over-65s, who have to pay higher premiums for medical cover at the time they can least afford it."

According to Anthony Bailey of the Consumers Association, who is currently looking at medical insurance for a forthcoming issue of *Which?* magazine, it is almost impossible to make a proper comparison of the costs and benefits of medical insurance schemes. For instance, many people confuse hospital plans, which pay cash benefits if you are hospitalized but do not pay for treatment, with traditional medical insurance which is designed to pay for private medical treatment.

Other schemes offer different incentives; one operates a "no claims" discount, as in motor insurance, and one organization offers women cover for breast and cervical cancer treatment.

It is difficult to see how policies aimed at the individual could sensibly be fitted into a reorganized health service. It has proved difficult to attract individuals into the conventional, and very much more expensive, private health schemes. Their success has come from companies, where the employers can offer discounts for large numbers.

However, insurers can choose who they wish to insure. Some medical insurers have more than half a dozen different age bands. And there are different rates depending on the area in which you live. London is the highest on the medical insurance scale.

"Until recently, you couldn't get medical insurance if you had suffered from cancer, even if it was the lightest of skin cancers," says Arthur Childs of Prime Health. "Insurers have really got to widen whom they will accept if the concept of private health care is to be extended to the mass population as part of the changes in the NHS."

Maggie Drummond



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TELEVISION AND RADIO

Compiled by Peter Dear
and Jane Rackham

BBC1

- 6.00 *Coast to Coast*.
6.30 *Edgar Kennedy in Radio*.
7.00 *Breakfast Time* with John
Waplington and Sally Jones.
Includes national and
international news at 7.00, 7.30,
8.00 and 8.30; regional news
and travel reports at 7.15, 7.45
and 8.15; plus, the latest
news from the Winter
Olympics in Calgary.
8.30 *Laverne and Shirley*. American
comedy series. 8.55 *Regional*
news and weather.
9.00 News and weather followed by
Open Air presented by Eamonn
Holmes.
10.00 News and weather followed by
Going for Gold (1). 10.25
Children's BBC. Andy Crane
with programme news and
birthday greetings followed by
Play School (1), and The Wombles
(1).
10.55 Five to Eleven. A reading by
Patricia Routledge. 11.00 News
and weather followed by Open
Air introduced by Bob Wellings
and Patti Goldwell.
12.00 News and weather followed by
Olympic Report. Steve Rider with
highlights from the ski jumping,
speed skating and ice hockey
events. Plus, a preview of this
evening's women's downhill to be
shown live at 5.30. 12.55
Regional news and weather.
1.00 One O'Clock News with Martin
Lewis. Weather. 1.30 *Neighbours*.
Madge and Clive hatch a
convoluted plot to reunite Dan and
Edna. 1.50 *Going for Gold*.
European quiz show presented by
Henry Kelly.
2.15 *Police At The Door* (1989).
Dealing with a case involving
Marriott and Graham Moffatt.
as the law enforcement officers of
a sleepy village where nobody
has been arrested for a decade.
Their superior demands that they
should make an arrest soon
— or face the sack. Directed by
Marcel Varnel.

BBC2

- 6.55 *Open University*. Ends at
7.20. 9.00 *Coast to Coast*.
9.35 *Daytime on Two*. Basic
Spanish language skills. 9.55
Tudor ships and seamen.
10.15 *Science*. 10.35
Young technologists face a
problem solved by Brunel on a
larger scale. 11.00 *Pigeon*
racing. 11.15 The origins of the
fast food industry. 11.35
Devil and the demon with fame
12.05 *Electronics* in action.
12.25 *Nutrition* experts and
teenagers discuss the latest
evidence linking diet with disease.
1.20 The Government's
technical and vocational education
initiative. 1.20 For the very
young. 1.35 Music: a song from
the West Indies. 2.00 News
and weather followed by a visit
down a South Wales coal
mine.
2.15 *Crufts 88*. The first of two
programmes from last week's
show at Earls Court. This
afternoon features the early
rounds in the judging of the
dog, terrier and hound groups.
3.00 News and weather followed by
Olympic Match of the Day. The
featured game is the Olympic
Saddledowne afternoon is
between the United States and
the USSR.
3.30 News, regional news and
weather.
4.00 *Catchword*. Word game
presented by Paul Cole.
4.30 *Day Out* with Angela Rippon
in West Dorset (first shown on BBC
West).
5.00 *Holiday 88* (1). (Coast to
Coast).
5.30 *Olympic Grandstand*. Live
coverage of women's downhill.
7.30 *The Education Programme*
focuses on Wigan Education
Authority who give a high
priority to the arts whether for
primary or secondary schools,
the handicapped or adults.
8.00 *Out of Court*. Ed Boyle reports
on the different faces of the Spring
area of Wigan, a quiet district
including sheltered housing for
the elderly and a school. The
locals are worried that their
peace and security would be
shattered if plans to build a
hotel for ex-prisoners and former
alcoholics comes to fruition.

Michael Buerk: on BBC2, 8.30pm

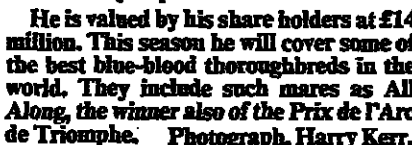
- 6.30 *Nature*. The first of a new
series on the natural world
presented by newsmen
Michael Buerk. Tonight's
programme includes a wry
look at fresh air and why it is being
sold to the jaded citizens of
Tokyo; an investigation of British
zoos; and the story of two
personnel who are trying to save
their allotments in South
Wales. The reporters are John
Howard and Linda Mitchell.
8.00 *Dogfood*. Dan and the
Carmarthen Cowboy. Continuing
the comedy about two long-
distance dog food products lorry
drivers who, unwittingly, are
having affairs with each other's
wife in opposite sides of the
country. Starring Peter Blake and
Malcolm Storry.
8.30 *40 Minutes*. Diary of a
Frontliner. (Coast to Coast).
10.10 *Olympic Report* includes
highlights of the women's downhill
and news of the ice hockey
game between Sweden and
Switzerland.
10.40 *Newsnight*. The latest national
and international news including
extended coverage of one of
the main stories of the day.
(Presented by Peter Snow and
Donald Macdonald). 11.30
Weather.
11.35 *Open University*. Weekend
Outlook. 11.40 Architecture and
Society. Ends at 12.10am.

ITV/LONDON

- 6.00 *TV-am* begins with cartoons
and a comedy series. Then
7.00, part one of *Good*.
Morning Britain presented by
Richard Keys. In part two, at
8.00, Keys is joined by Mike
Morris. After Nine minutes
agony aunt Claire Rayner.
8.25 *Thames news*.
8.30 *One to One*. Celebrity
chat. 10.00 *Santa Barbara*.
10.25 *News* headlines.
10.30 *The Time*.
The Place... Mike Scott chairs a
discussion on a topical subject.
11.15 *Police*. A new series.
11.25 *Thames news* headlines.
11.30 *Homescreen*. Roy Hudd meets
people of New Brighton who
remember when it was one of
the biggest seaside holiday
resorts in the north-west.
12.00 *The Sullivan*.
12.30 *News* with Julia Somerville.
12.50 *Thames news*.
1.00 *Chain Letters*. A new
association game presented by
Jeremy Beadle. 1.30 *Falcon*.
Crest. Drama serial starring Jane
Wyman as the mistress of a
Cavalier. 2.00 *Home*.
Home. A new series.
2.30 *As the Years Pass*. A new
series. 3.00 *Thames news*.
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Fit and ready to dance again

● **VIENNA:** Despite increasingly hostile foreign press coverage and the British decision to reopen its files, the controversy showed signs of temporarily ebbing here



Mr Dennis Canavan, often to be seen lurking around a scene of carnage screaming slogans in his piercing Scots accent, waved a banner of defiance at Mr Ridley. "Many people including myself will initially refuse to register for poll tax and refuse to pay", he screamed. Attack, attack: it must be the duty of society to find those who loiter around Westminster something more constructive to do with their time.

Super Tuesday, which includes Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Washington, Idaho and Hawaii as well as all the southern and border states, has become almost a national primary election.

Bush triumphs, page 7
Geoffrey Smith, page 7
Frank Johnson, page 12

Having sworn allegiance to, among others, himself, he signed the Test Roll confirming his acceptance of the Queen as head of the Church of England, and shook hands with Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, on the Woolsack, to a susurrations of "Hear hear."

NESTED JETTISON

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London: The FT Index closed up 9.5 at 1396.4.

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TEMPUS

BA prepares to clear the B-Cal decks

The slight setback in British Airways' third-quarter profits, and Lord King's warning that fourth-quarter losses will be swelled by British Caledonian, are uninspiring but unimportant.

The period included an £18 million currency loss that might be partly recouped and a dollar fuel price up 20 per cent to a brief peak. Smith New Court's Bob Bucknell, for one, is sticking to a conservative forecast of £245 million pretax for the year to March.

In the short term, what matters is the accounting effects of the B-Cal acquisition. In the medium term, the trading benefits of B-Cal's extra 15 per cent to 18 per cent of capacity and BA's link-up with United Airlines are big positive elements to counter a possible general recession in traffic — not yet sighted.

BA will follow the usual acquisition ploy of writing off everything it can think of at B-Cal in the "black hole" period of two months between B-Cal's own accounts to October, which showed £113 million net worth, and its incorporation into BA from January.

There is plenty to charge, possibly including redundancy costs, write-downs of B-Cal's ageing jumbo fleet, currently in at £150 million, and money due from Nigeria.

This should cut future overheads and might provide relief

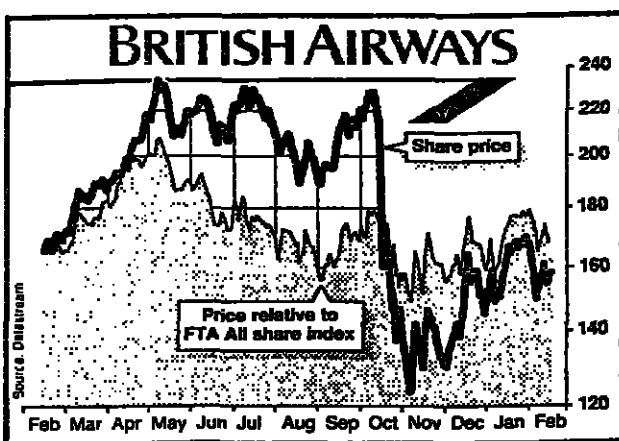
from a tax charge otherwise expected to rise from 9 per cent to a full 35 per cent. Earnings per share should be a minimum of 22p.

But the greater the write-offs, the worse for BA's balance sheet. Allowing for £350 million of B-Cal debt, finance director Gordon Dunlop is presently expecting 55 per cent debt to 45 per cent equity.

Over the next two years, only a severe airline recession is likely to counter BA's growth momentum. Over the latest nine months, scheduled revenue passenger kilometres were up 16 per cent.

B-Cal should become a progressive plus, not least by boosting BA's monopoly power. But it might still be a burden during the crucial first few months of 1988-89. Apart from cost savings, BA should later fill up many more B-Cal seats — and the United deal should provide a progressive boost to North Atlantic business.

It is early days to press beyond recent forecasts of £265 million to £270 million for 1988-89. But the growth/recession equation looks comforting for shares primarily bought for income. Up 3.5p to 159p yesterday, they look good value on a yield of 5.6 per cent and at less than 7.5 times earnings. But disappointed privatization buyers could provide a bear element.



TIP Europe

TIP Europe has raised its head above the parapet, having ducked plans to come to the market when the stock market crashed last October. Its sortie is more cautious this time, preferring a placing to an offer for sale.

But the prospects for the still immature European trailer rental market are not unexciting. TIP pioneered the concept of trailer rental and in 20 years has built up a fleet of 10,000 vehicles and a leading 24 per cent market share. Rental makes up 6 per cent of the total trailer market and forecasts suggest that this could grow to more than 10 per cent by the early 1990s.

The attractions of rental are

considerable as it smooths peaks and troughs in demand and ensures users' access to state-of-the-art trailers. TIP has increased its proportion of "premium" trailers from 30 per cent in 1983 to 60 per cent.

Improved utilization of trailers — rising to three trailers for every one tractor unit — should expand the market. TIP's 4,000 customers in a wide range of industries minimize exposure to an economic downturn.

The group is tightly run from the Amsterdam head office. Given the group's recent roots as a management buyout in 1986, opportunities for further employee share participation are an important factor behind the listing.

The £15.3 million raised,

net of expenses, will be used to reduce debt of around 75 per cent of shareholders' funds and to expand the trailer fleet. Gearing may rise to 100 per cent but TIP remains confident that it will be some time before it needs to return to the market for additional funding.

The current year has started well with trading ahead of expectations. TIP should make £8.9 million in a full year, putting the shares on a prospective multiple of 9.5 times at the 125p placing price. The yield is a supportive 4.6 per cent. The company's reputation should overcome negative sentiment in the market about companies involved in leasing and/or containers. TIP shares should attract a sound following.

Oil sector

As the oil industry's reporting season gets under way today with British Petroleum expected to report net income of around £1.4 billion, the fundamental outlook for the industry continues to be one of unrelieved misery.

The pure exploration companies, most of which are at the smaller end of the spectrum in terms of resources, are all putting a brave face on things. But low oil prices mean low receipts for their current production, and there is little cash for anything beyond bankable projects and mere

survival. The longer low prices persist, the tougher life becomes.

Even the integrated oil companies have not been enjoying the usual compensating buoyancy in the refining and marketing side that normally accompanies weak oil prices. It was not until the final quarter of 1987, when the dollar cracked decisively, that downstream margins began to turn up.

Meanwhile, structural changes are occurring which will have long-term ramifications. Downstream, the Middle Eastern oil producers are now very interested in taking direct stakes in European refining and marketing capacity. Kuwait, is not only a significant shareholder in one of the biggest European refiners, British Petroleum; it is also a force to be reckoned with on the marketing side.

Upstream, the market has taken the view that the takeover of Tricentrol and Britoil marks open season among the independent oil companies.

A combination of sluggish demand, overproduction and adequate stocks have caused the crude oil price to drift down virtually every day of late. Almost unnoticed, it has slipped to \$15.95 (£9.10) a barrel. But investors are no longer analysing the fundamentals. Spotting the takeover target is the speculator's sport.

STOCK MARKET

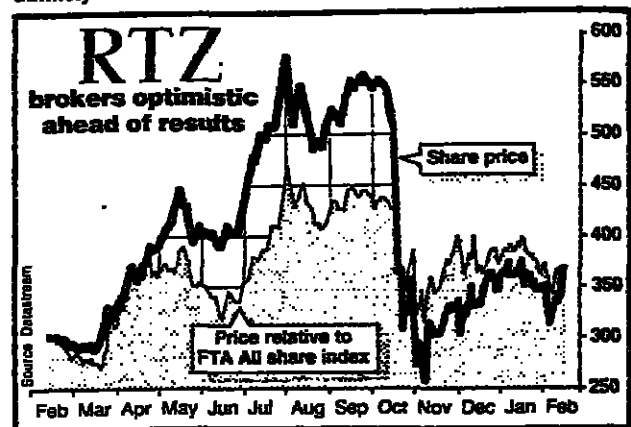
Pearl up by 3p as Larry Adler increases stake

Pearl Assurance, one of Britain's best known life insurance companies, firmed 3p to 447p after learning that Mr Larry Adler, the Australian businessman, has spent another £8 million topping up his holding in the company.

His FAI Insurance Group has mopped up another 1.8 million shares, taking his total holding to 11.58 million shares, or 6.46 per cent of Pearl's issued share capital. But dealers reckon that it is unlikely that Mr Adler will

BZW is looking for pretax profits of £275 million for 1987 and £305 million for the current year against £244.8 million last time.

County NatWest, the rival broker, is also a big fan of RTZ and expects outperformance by the shares in the run up to the results. County is going for pretax profits of £310 million next year and believes that the group has benefited from higher prices for copper, gold and silver.



launch a full bid himself, although he already sits on an estimated £400 million of spare cash.

Dealers claim that Mr Adler is in the same mould as New Zealand Sir Ron Brierley who launched a bid last year for Equity & Law before selling his 30 per cent stake to the eventual winner, Compagnie du Midi. But Mr Adler has already achieved a notable success of his own. He built up a 14.7 per cent stake in Hill Samuel, the merchant bank, before eventually selling it on to the TSB — following

Hopes that Ford's 32,500 manual workers will accept the new, two-year pay deal breathed some life back into Ford's main suppliers and distributors.

GKN, the engineering group, advanced by 4p to 312p on a turnover of 2.3 million shares, while sentiment was also helped by talk of a Toyota contract. Lucas jumped by 11p to 610p and Perry Group gained 25p to 215p.

Ultramar, the independent oil producer, was again the star performer in the oil sector, rising by a further 12p to 276p, after 279p, on a turnover of nearly 5 million shares.

The market is hoping that it can identify Tuesday's mystery buyer of a block of 5.7 million shares, or 2 per cent of the equity, at 260p.

Premier Consolidated Oilfields, the rival exploration group, is thought to have snapped up the shares from Consolidated Gold Fields.

But Sir Ron Brierley, the New Zealand entrepreneur, still holds a 13.13 per cent stake in Ultramar.

Enterprise, the independent oil company, also attracted speculative buying and ended 8p up at 293p as merger hopes resurfaced.

Lasmo increased its stake in Enterprise to above 25 per cent just before Christmas and talk of a merger between the two has been rife for several months. The issue is complicated by the Government's golden share in Enterprise — which expires at the end of the year — and by the presence of ICI which owns a 25 per cent stake.

Lasmo improved by 4p to 307p on talk that RTZ, which sits on nearly 30 per cent of

ICI's decision to build its own pharmaceutical plant in Italy was well received. Mr Chris Marsay, an analyst at Kleinwort Greaveson, the broker, says that it dispels fears that ICI was planning a rights issue to finance a bid for Italian drug manufacturer Erlbaum. ICI rose by 28p to £10.73.

the shares, will bid for both Lasmo and Enterprise and that the new group will be headed by Mr Chris Greentree, the Canadian chief executive at Lasmo.

Brewery shares continued to edge ahead in quiet trading, helped by the latest PSBR figures earlier this week. These indicated that the Chancellor has more room for manoeuvre with his Budget proposals. Hopes are rising that he will be able to boost spending by delivering the much-talked-about tax cuts and will not have to offset them with hefty increases in excise duty.

Michael Clark and Geoffrey Foster

ALC team to join Warburg stable

By Lawrence Lever

The highly rated 12-strong investment trust team at CL-Alexanders Laing & Cruickshank is joining Warburg Securities after some senior members of the team indicated they wanted to move.

The team, led by Mr Garth Milne and including Mr Tod Sellers, Mr Roger Adams and Mr John Szymanski, is due to join Warburg by April 8.

The move is being structured as a buyout of CL-A's 50 per cent stake in a partnership it has run with Warburg since October 1986, covering the investment trust sector.

Under this arrangement, the market-making of Warburg was combined with the investment trust research and distribution of CL-A's.

The two shared commissions on agency business in the trust sector as well as the

profits or losses on the market-making side.

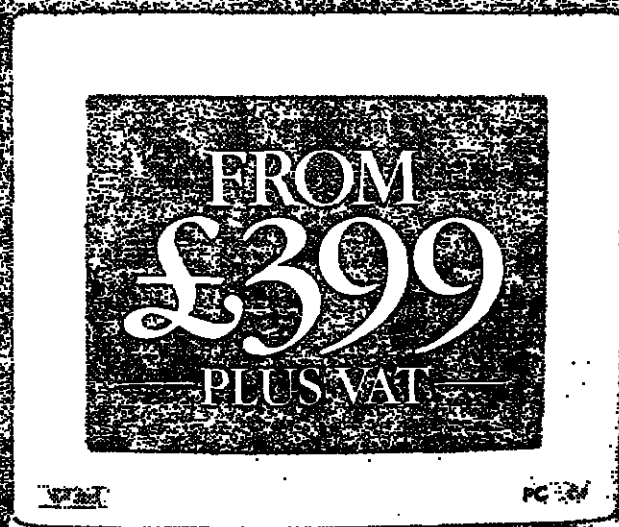
Payment for the CL-A's interest in the partnership, which is called the Investment Trust Sector, has not been disclosed by Mr Mark Powell, chief executive of CL-A's Holdings, said the partnership had been "profitable" and agreed that the purchase price was "measured in millions".

He said the terms of the deal did not preclude ALC continuing in the sector and he reckoned Laing would still produce its investment trust yearbook.

He agreed that he was "not terribly happy" to lose the team but added the sale "was a sensible, well-structured move".

It is understood that some, but not all, senior members of the Laing team were unhappy and wanted to move.

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STOCK MARKET
The FTSE 100 index closed at 2,145.12, up 12.5 points from 2,132.62. The index was up in all sectors, with the most significant gains in the pharmaceutical and financial sectors. The FTSE 250 index closed at 3,456.78, up 18.9 points from 3,437.88. The index was up in all sectors, with the most significant gains in the pharmaceutical and financial sectors. The FTSE 100 index closed at 2,145.12, up 12.5 points from 2,132.62. The index was up in all sectors, with the most significant gains in the pharmaceutical and financial sectors. The FTSE 250 index closed at 3,456.78, up 18.9 points from 3,437.88. The index was up in all sectors, with the most significant gains in the pharmaceutical and financial sectors.

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Takeover tactics lead to high-speed paper chase

Bid bankers turn to bikers

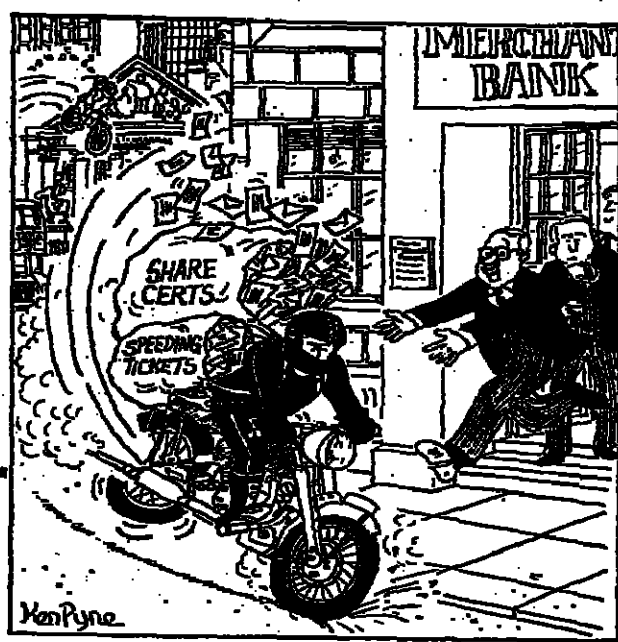
By Joe Joseph
Baring Brothers, the merchant bank that marshalled Blue Circle's £275 million assault on Birmid Qualeast, felt confident enough of victory by last Saturday's bid deadline to pre-book space in Monday's newspapers to trumpet its success.

The quarter-page advertisements that Baring Brothers' campaign for Blue Circle had been "finely judged... finely executed."

Exactly how finely is being studied by the Takeover Panel and by Birmid, which has fought hard for its independence. Blue Circle claimed victory by just 9,323 shares out of a total of 72.3 million, a crucial and adequate margin by the rules, but a straw so slender that even a camel might not notice.

Barings took the precaution of setting up a web of motor-bike couriers to vacuum up acceptance forms from Birmid shareholders who had only decided over Saturday morning breakfast to switch sides.

The forms, guarded like a visiting monarch's motorcade, were speeded across the country to Blue Circle's three



main acceptance centres at Hoare Govett in London, Fyfe Horton Finney in Birmingham and Campbell Neill in Glasgow.

Barings, which had already shown its inventiveness two weeks before the bid deadline by offering Birmid shareholders immediate cash settlement in return for their acceptance forms, had made a point of

broadcasting more loudly than usual that couriers would be on hand for those in need.

With one institution's crucial block vote of 250,000 shares in favour of Blue Circle arriving as late as Saturday morning's post, the tension was enough to make Lord Verulam of Barings exclaim later that day: "It's the nearest

result in a takeover bid I can recall. It was like election night here."

This Friday it will fall to the merchant bankers at Kleinwort Benson to sweat and nurse Barker & Dobson, the sweets and supermarkets company, through the final day of its cheeky takeover bid for Dee's Gateway supermarkets group.

"It's open almost right to the last minute," says Mr Bay Green, a Kleinwort director. "The path will be made as smooth as practicable for those who may need some logistical way to get an acceptance in."

Even if the shareholder lives in Somerset?

"If we could find no other way of getting it in, then we would send a courier. We have access to a whole number of couriers. We have 20 immediately available from Kleinwort. We can draw on an additional number from other people involved. Then we hire outside bikers."

No effort will be spared. As Mr John Fletcher of Barker & Dobson said yesterday: "I told Kleinwort I'm not going to lose this bid for 9,000 shares."

GrandMet pensions surplus at £150m

By Michael Tate

Grand Metropolitan, the hotels, pubs and drinks combine, has turned in a £150 million surplus on its pension fund, enabling it to extend its £9 million a year contributions saving until the end of the century.

At the same time it is stepping up the benefits for its 50,000 pension fund members. In a move that establishes the group as one of the more forward-thinking among British employers, it is introducing a money purchase scheme for employees.

GrandMet first disclosed a pension surplus two years ago, and declared that it would halve its annual contributions until 1990, effectively increasing group pre-tax profits by about £9 million a year.

Now it says that the reduced level can operate until the year 2000.

Among the improvements being made to the group's scheme are better pension on early retirement and abolition of the policy of making lower payments to those retiring between 58 and 63. Lower contributions by members and the introduction of child allowances are also being brought in.

It is also bringing in equal treatment for men and women by introducing a common retirement age of 63.

The money purchase scheme will be introduced in April, when new relaxed pension regulations come in.

GrandMet's pension scheme has been voluntary since last April. It is disappointed that fewer than 30 per cent of new employees have joined in the past year.

"It is hard to interest the youngsters in pensions but we think we may attract more with this opportunity of a personal pension," says Mr Ron Amy, the pensions director.

Healthcare sale offer success

By Alexander Jackson

The offer for sale of AMI Healthcare, owners of 16 private hospitals, including London's Harley Street Clinic, has been oversubscribed between two and three times. The basis of allocation will be announced in due course. Dealings are expected to begin on Friday, February 26.

S. G. Warburg, the merchant bank, offered 23.2 million shares at 215p each, representing 35 per cent of the enlarged capital of the company and valuing it at £142.5 million.

New money amounting to £31.7 million, net of expenses, will be raised for the group. The balance will be paid to AMI's American parent, American Medical International.

Power chief poised to clash with Select Committee

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

The electricity supply industry is on course to clash with the Commons Energy Select Committee, which is investigating the Government's options for privatizing the industry.

The committee is likely to demand access to a report commissioned by the Electricity Council from Price Waterhouse, the accountant, into how the industry sets its bulk supply tariffs - the amount it pays for electricity from the power stations on which it bases its prices to the customer - and which is believed to show that private generators have been effectively kept out of the business by the pricing policies operated by the Central Electricity Generating Board.

The committee has been told by ICI, which generates a large proportion of its own power needs on Teesside from British coal, that the pricing policies have prevented it from offering surplus power to the national grid.

Sir Philip Jones, chairman of the Electricity Council, which oversees the 12 area electricity boards in England and Wales and the CEBG, told the committee yesterday that if asked to make the report available to the committee he would "have to consider that matter."

Sir Ian Lloyd, the committee chairman and Conservative MP for Havant, told Sir Philip that the committee has power to call for any documents it requires.

Sir Philip said the committee chairman would have to consider whether he wanted to issue such a call.

He was clearly signalling to the committee that he has no intention of volunteering to pass it on. He said the report

Fancy footwork on the takeover trail

COMMENT David Brewerton

Neither John Fletcher of Barker & Dobson nor Alec Monk of Dee will be counting their chickens too early after the experience of Blue Circle, which has had doubt and possible defeat cast over its declaration of success in the battle for Birmid Qualeast.

One problem for Blue Circle was that at least two holders of about 2 per cent of Birmid's equity apparently openly pledged support to Blue Circle only to change their minds at the eleventh hour.

Save & Prosper sold its shares to friends of Birmid at a price marginally above the 380p a share bid, through the friendly hands of Cazenove, Birmid's brokers. Cash seems to have been the main attraction there.

But the behaviour of Barclays de Zoete Wedd Investment Management makes talk of ideology and principle during takeover bids particularly inappropriate. BZWIM was initially happy to support Blue Circle in its quest to move further into the home products market. It appears to have been all the happier about making this decision while it looked as if Blue Circle would easily gain control of Birmid. But as the closing date drew nearer, as Birmid's position strengthened and as the political and moral lobbyists gained momentum, BZWIM niftily changed sides.

Every shareholder has to be free to make up his mind at the last minute, but sending motorcycles scurrying about the country seems an odd way to decide the fate of British industry.

Midland's bitter fruit

Midland Bank is making history today by revealing the biggest loss ever suffered by a British clearer. The announcement must be a

Ivory back to Square One

Funny things, investment trusts. Unique among businesses, their shareholders are their only customers. They have no value nor use to anyone else, except as pools of money which can earn fees for the managers and which can back other businesses.

So when the customer is dissatisfied, the shareholder will look for action. The problem, however, is taking action that pleases one customer will upset another. And this is precisely what has happened in the case of Ivory & Sime and the proposed reorganization of three of its investment trusts. The £300 million reorganization involving Japan Assets Trust, Atlantic Assets Trust and Edinburgh American Assets Trust is falling foul of enough shareholders to ensure that it will not achieve the majorities needed at the special meetings being called for next week.

Ivory & Sime has only itself to blame. It sat with too many advisers over too long a period to stand any chance of coming up with a sensible plan. The reorganization, as we pointed out here when the proposal was first mooted, is too complicated to succeed involving the creation of a host of new investment vehicles and the flotation of a new form of unsecured loan stock linked to the performance of the FT-A All Share Index.

Opposition to the proposals is low key, but it is well known that Save & Prosper with 10 per cent of the Atlantic Assets capital is likely to vote against the proposals along with British Empire Securities with 4 per cent. The National Investment Group broker, Milton Mortimer, has urged holders of the Japan Assets Trust loan stock to vote the plans down. But worse than this organized institutional dissent is the fact that callers to the Ivory & Sime hotline are complaining that they do not want any reorganization at all, let alone the mind boggling contortion with which they are currently confronted.

So why has Ivory & Sime launched itself along the reorganization route? The answer, in truth, lies with just one shareholder, in one trust. Anglo & Overseas Trust owns 29.2 per cent of Japan Assets and wants to unlock the underlying value. Ivory either had to come up with a reorganization or face the prospect of calls for liquidation. Save & Prosper would like to unlock the discount in Atlantic Assets, but that is only a secondary worry to Ivory. Anglo & Overseas will vote in favour of the scheme.

But the fact which has most of the dissenting shareholders hopping mad is that unless the major new proposed trust, Selective Assets, beats the FT-A All Share, ordinary shareholders will see their asset value tumble. And Ivory hasn't beaten the index for years.

Back to the drawing board.

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Beware of 'routine' meetings

In these lean times brokers should perhaps beware corporate clients who arrange "routine meetings". Property developer Randsworth Trust did just that last week with its investment bank, Chase Manhattan. Randsworth went on to make a "routine presentation" to some of Chase's institutional salesmen, and then, 24 hours or so later, sacked Chase in favour of Phillips & Drew. According to informed sources, the Randsworth duo who made the presentation - chairman David Holland and chief executive Andrew Nichols - had actually arranged the meeting to inform Chase that it was being sacked but "chickened out" - understandably - when ushered into a room full of eager Chase salesmen. I'm told that at least one of those salesmen learnt of the change in Randsworth's corporate advisers a day or so later when he tried to sell Randsworth stock to a P&D broker. Adding intrigue to the tale, Holland confirms they have changed broker but denies it was anything other than a "routine meeting". "What a ridiculous story," he says. Maybe. Or has he just lost his sense of humour?

● Talk about keeping it in the family! An article entitled "Cosmopolitan Dubai" in the latest edition of British Airways' glossy magazine *Business Life* is written by one Rachel Marckus, wife of Observer journalist Melvyn and daughter of... you've guessed it: Lord King.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Going up, up and oops

The wealthy Chan family from Hong Kong must have wondered whether the £110 million they had just spent buying the Churchill Hotel in London's Portman Square yesterday was as good an investment as they had hoped. As they guided a press party into a lift to take them to a top floor re-

ception, there was apparently an embarrassed silence as the operator pressed the "up" button, waited, and then had to wrestle with the doors before getting them to close. Seems the Chans will have no trouble spending the £15 million they have set aside for renovating the five-star hotel.

Tractor tip-off

To ensure that there is no misunderstanding about the business of trailer rental group TIP Europe, boxed sets of replicas of three of the company's 27 trailer models were handed out to journalists at yesterday's press conference to announce the new issue's placing details. A tractor unit was, however, not included to prove that TIP rents trailers only. If a company renting or

manufacturing tractor units were now to go public, it would be assured of a warm reception - a number of influential financial writers are, I hear, eagerly awaiting the missing parts

LA lament

Just imagine how you would feel if you woke up one morning and discovered that the Japanese had bought half the City of London. While that has yet to happen here, it has, I hear, already taken place in Los Angeles. According to figures just published by the California-based Claremont Economics Institute, the Japanese now own 45 per cent of LA's downtown business district. But, while they have been causing increasing consternation among the patriotic natives, they have not been alone in taking advantage of the weak dollar. During 1987, the British apparently spent \$29 billion, buying 314 American companies. That compares with a figure of \$13.9 billion for 229 companies the previous year.



"Anything for the post?"

Builders play safe

Behaving as if they would feel more at home in Saudi Arabia, the macho Chartered Institute of Building held its annual dinner at Guildhall this week and, in accordance with tradition, banished their wives to a small, sometimes unheated, crypt at the rear of the building. The women - only 20 hardly souls braved the occasion - were, however, allowed on to a balcony to listen to the speeches. It must have been all the more galling for them to then observe some 10 or so other women - Institute employees or, like me, an honorary "gentleman of the Press" - dining among the 590 males. Curious also that the guest speaker, Energy Minister Cecil Parkinson - an old Cambridge chum of this year's president, Brian Hill, of Higgs & Hill - made no reference to a campaign just launched by the Institute to prevent children from playing on building sites. Perhaps he did not want to be the butt of all those macho jokes: the campaign is called *Playsafe*.

● Another City character from the days when the Stock Exchange was a leading floor takes the dust. For the time being at least, Derek Flynn has parted company with banking firm Hoare Govett where he had been running the insurance book. With the firm for almost three years, he set up both its banking and electrical pitches. But Flynn agrees that at 40 he is too young to retire. "I've been sounded out on a couple of possibilities already," he says.

Carol Leonard

[illegible]

صلى الله عليه وسلم



TURKEY

FOCUS

A SPECIAL REPORT

A long march into Europe

Peaceful moves

Turkey is intent on joining the EEC and is anxious to prove a worthy member but the going will not be easy, writes Peter Strafford

The exhibition which opens at the British Museum today gives a dazzling impression of the Ottoman Empire at its peak in the 16th century, when its expansion was a constant threat not just to Europe, but to other parts of the world as well. The rule of Süleyman the Magnificent stretched from Budapest to Cairo and Baghdad.

The republican Turkey of Turgut Özal, Prime Minister since 1983, has little in common with the empire of Süleyman, or the days of the "Terrible Turk". But it is his heir, and Mr Özal, too, is making his presence felt in the capitals of Europe.

He is not basking in his army at the gates of Vienna as Süleyman did, but he is at least knocking politely and persistently on the doors of Brussels. He can argue that Turkey, too, like most of the present members of the European Community, has a glorious past, and that it should now be regarded as a European state and admitted as a full member.

Mr Özal is not going to have an easy task, and it is likely to be many years before Turkey becomes a full member, if indeed it ever does. But the Turkish application, made formally last April, is an issue of great importance both for the Community and for Turkey, and will be a leading theme in European affairs for much of the rest of the century.

This is true primarily for political, rather than economic reasons. Turkey, with its vast and strategically placed land mass — it has borders with the Soviet Union, Iran, Iraq and Syria — is a bridge between Europe and the Middle East, and a key member of NATO. It is also predominantly European in its orientation, and if it felt rebuffed by the EEC that could have considerable repercussions on its future attitudes.

The potential economic difficulties are, however, immense. They are, basically, that Turkey is a very large country, with a

population that is already about 55 million and is growing fast; and that it is very poor, with an average income far below that of Portugal, the poorest of the present members. Together, these two facts would be bound to stretch Community resources.

More generally, there are those who question whether Turkey, a country whose inhabitants are overwhelmingly Muslim — though the state is strictly secular — should be regarded as European. A substantial part of its territory — eastern Thrace and the city of Istanbul — is certainly in Europe,

THE EXHIBITION

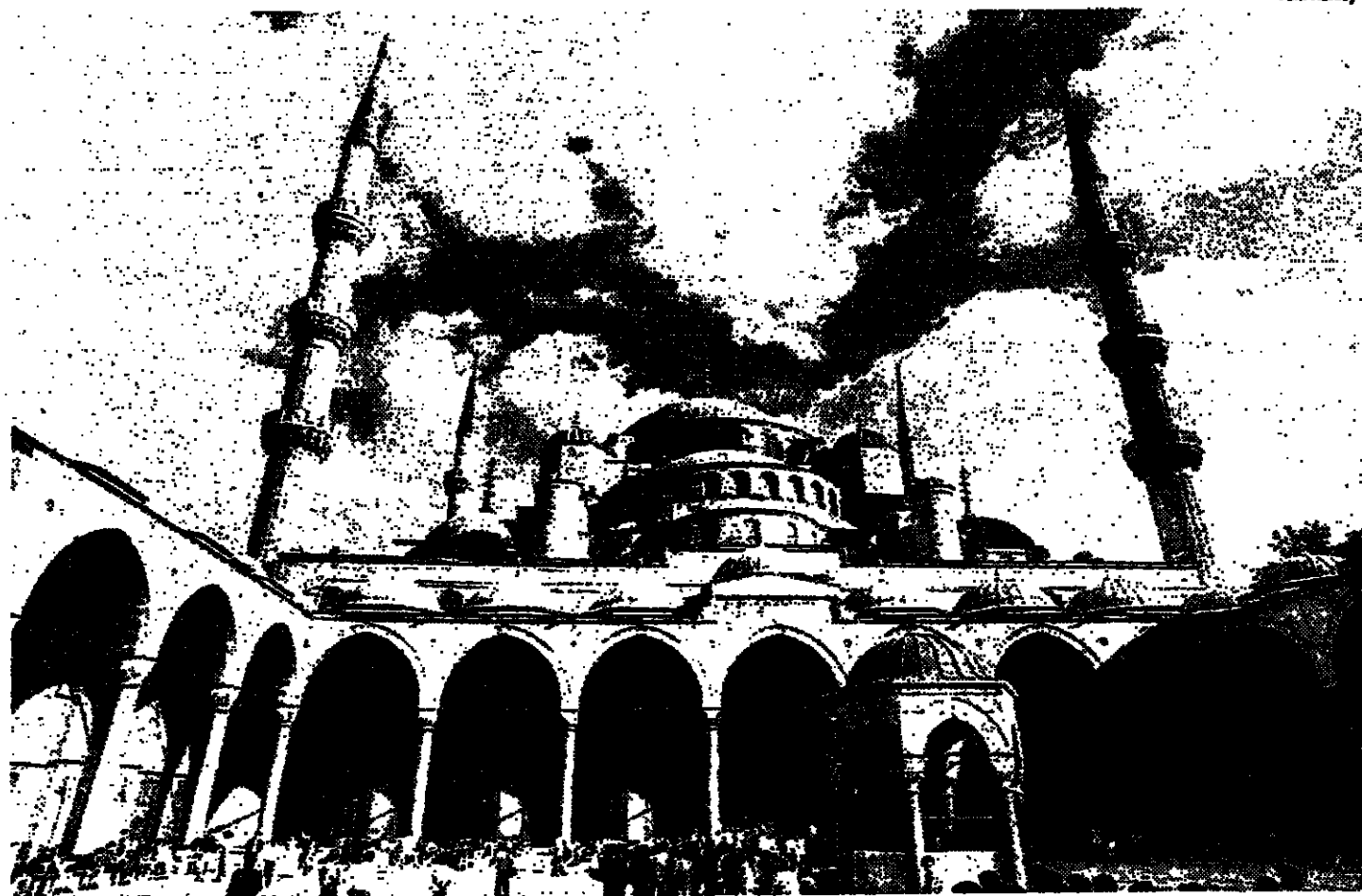
Süleyman The Magnificent: Starting today, an exhibition of costume, manuscripts, paintings and assorted treasures from the 16th century Ottoman court. British Museum, London WC1.

but its eastern borders put it in close contact with the trouble-spots of the Middle East.

Finally, there is the question of Turkey's democratic credentials. The Turkish army has intervened in the country's politics on three occasions since the Second World War, the most recent time only in 1980; and that last intervention led to many blatant abuses of human rights. Is the situation really back to normal?

For the time being, everyone is waiting for the Brussels Commission to produce its formal opinion on the issues, and that is not likely to be completed before next year. But in Ankara preparations are under way, and a sustained campaign is being waged to meet the objections.

Heart is taken from the successful meeting in Switzerland at the end of January between Mr Özal and Andreas Papandreu, the Greek Prime Minister, when the two men agreed to make a concerted, and peaceful, attempt



In all its glory: the Blue Mosque in Istanbul

to resolve the many differences between Turkey and Greece.

This is something that Mr Özal has long wanted, and if it means an end to the Greek policy of systematically blocking Turkish moves towards the EEC, it will greatly improve Turkey's prospects. But there is no illusion that an easing of Greek hostility — even if it occurs — will by itself provide the key for Turkish entry. The broader questions remain.

Turkey's fundamental strategy is economic. Mr Özal is an experienced economist who has been involved since before he became Prime Minister in attempts to put the Turkish economy on its feet after the near-collapse of the late 1970s. He aims to modernize the economy, both for its own sake and because it will make Turkey a more attractive partner for the EEC.

He has had considerable success. There has been growth at a remarkable rate in recent years — 8 per cent in 1986, 6.8 per cent last

year — and one only has to travel round Turkey to see that it is a country on the move, with new buildings going up everywhere.

At the same time there has been a switch in emphasis from agriculture, still an important sector, to industry. Turkey's exports are now predominantly industrial, and they have made the major contribution to the remarkable growth in exports in recent years.

There is, however, a long way to go, and at the moment the economy is suffering from a high rate of inflation, said by some to have been approaching a rate of 60 per cent at the end of last year. There is also high unemployment, and anxiety about the level of foreign debt.

Mr Özal is, however, riding high

after his victory in last year's general election. It was the first election to be held without constraints since the 1980 military takeover and, though the size of his majority was exaggerated by changes in the system which he himself introduced, no one doubts that he was a clear winner.

He subsequently took advantage of his new-found strength to reduce the power of the Islamic fundamentalists in the government, and so to alleviate a trend towards fundamentalism that had been causing many Turks anxiety.

At the same time steps have been taken to end human rights abuses and to prove Turkey's good faith in that area. Individual recourse to the European Commission of Human Rights

has been granted, and Turkey has signed two conventions against torture, one sponsored by the UN, the other European.

Provided, therefore, that he can keep a grip on the economy, Mr Özal has a strong case to make to his European colleagues — including Mrs Thatcher, who is to visit Turkey in April. Turkey, he can point out, is a long-standing member of NATO, of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, and of the Council of Europe, and so an established member of the Western world.

It is, moreover, now in better standing than it has been for a long time. Democracy has been restored, and the economy, if still frail, is showing considerable vigour.

Given its position in the world, therefore, and its prospects for the future, he can argue that it will not just be a burden on the EEC, but will have real advantages to offer its future partners.

The dramatic recent agreement between Turgut Özal, the Turkish Prime Minister, and Andreas Papandreu, his Greek opposite number, has, on the face of it, transformed relations between the two countries, hostile for so long.

The agreement, reached in Davos at the end of January, has been widely welcomed in Turkey, and not only because it provides a framework for the peaceful discussion of the differences between the two countries. It also may lead to a softening in Greek hostility towards Turkey's approach to the European Community.

The leadership of the Social Democratic and Populist Party, the main opposition party, has formally welcomed the agreement. Only Süleyman Demirel, the former Prime Minister and now the leader of the True Path Party, has expressed scepticism about it, pointing out that it has not actually resolved any of the differences.

That is, of course, strictly true. But relations between Turkey and Greece are so fraught with emotion that a decision to discuss differences and to work for peaceful solutions is, in itself, a significant step forward.

It will, of course, take more than goodwill to resolve the various points of dispute. But two committees have now been set up by Mr Özal and Mr Papandreu, and one of them will tackle the contentious issues, such as the delimitation of the continental shelf in the Aegean, airspace, territorial waters, and Turkish claims that Greece has illegally militarized islands off the Turkish coast.

It may also discuss the position of the Greek nationals of Turkish origin who live on the western side of the border in Thrace. They demonstrated just before the Davos meeting in support of claims that they are maltreated by the Greek authorities, and the incidents were given wide publicity in Turkey.

Less contentious issues will be discussed in a second committee, and this may be the more productive in the long run if it leads to a new sense of shared interests. The committee will look at possible areas of future cooperation, such as business, trade and tourism.

Meanwhile, if things do go wrong, as they nearly did in the clash over oil exploration in the Aegean last March, when Turkey and Greece were on the point of war, there is to be a hot line between Ankara and Athens, to be used to defuse crises.

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A victorious Turgut Özal, leader of the Motherland Party, is doing well in foreign affairs but on the home front is now paying the price of pre-electoral public spending

This man who gets things done

POLITICS

Turgut Özal, who was re-elected Prime Minister of Turkey last November, sees himself as a new type of politician, leading a new party, armed with new ideas.

True, the key idea has a familiar ring in the West: "Set the people free from bureaucratic controls. Compete on the world free market. There is no alternative." But in Turkey the approach was novel, and its first results spectacular.

Soon after Mr Özal's first electoral victory in November 1983, the shops began to fill with foreign consumer goods which could previously be found only on the black market, and Turks gained the unaccustomed freedom of buying foreign currency freely for their trips abroad or their business transactions.

And not only did the economy not collapse, as Mr Özal's critics predicted, but its growth accelerated until it reached the record annual rate of 8 per cent in 1986.

"Ours is a government that gets things done," Mr Özal claimed, and the evidence was there in public works, in private factories working to full capacity, in an explosion of private house-building stimulated by Mr Özal's Collective Housing Fund.

Funds were one instrument used by Mr Özal to combine the

Turgut Özal is not a politician to miss his chance, and despite critics has managed to instill new vigour and perspective into Turkey's economy and foreign relations

business ethic with social solidarity. Imports were liberalized, but importers and other businessmen were made to contribute to a number of welfare and patriotic funds earmarked for sectors such as housing, poor relief and national defence.

Another instrument was local government which, for the first time, was given a proper share of tax revenue and was encouraged to improve local amenities.

People like Bedrettin Dalan, Mayor of Greater Istanbul, elected like most mayors on the list of Mr Özal's Motherland Party, did not have to be told twice. He cleaned the Golden Horn, created new parks and open spaces, and built new roads.

Mayor Dalan is one of Mr Özal's new men — practical people from business and the professions. Like him, they have travelled abroad, often studied abroad, sometimes worked abroad.

Turgut Özal himself is an indefatigable traveller, taking with him delegations of businessmen wherever he goes. He believes that

there is no substitute for solid profit if one wants solid international relations.

It was the military who gave Mr Özal his chance. They found him at the head of the State Planning Organization when they took over to stop an incipient civil war in 1980, and they made him deputy prime minister in charge of the economy. More important, they dissolved all existing parties and banned their leaders from politics.

Mr Özal did not miss his chance. He resigned in 1982 in time to distance himself from the military, who were beginning to lose their lustre, formed the "nationalist and conservative" Motherland Party the following year, and won an absolute majority as the leader least favoured by the generals.

Since then he has established an excellent working relationship with Kenan Evren, who as General Evren led the army takeover and headed the military government before being elected civilian President of the Republic.

Mr Özal and Mr Evren saw eye

to eye on the subject of the old politicians — neither wanted them back in power — and Mr Özal handled their inevitable return to politics with consummate skill. Where a vote in parliament, in which the Motherland Party held the majority, could have easily re-enfranchised them, Mr Özal preferred to hold a popular referendum on the subject, which he called for last September.

He did not campaign openly against his predecessors, but explained often and vividly the straits to which they had reduced the country, and by these means he obtained the best possible result: a lifting of the ban by a majority of less than 1 per cent, which reintroduced full democracy while damaging the old campaigners.

Then before the polls closed, Mr Özal sprung one of his favourite surprises: he announced an early election, which gave the old politicians no time to establish themselves at the head of parties which they had earlier run by proxy, and he amended the electoral law to enhance the strength of the leading party in parliament.

The plan worked, and with 36 per cent of the total poll, the Motherland Party won 252 out of 450 seats in parliament. The Social Democratic and Populist Party, led by Professor Erdal İnönü, came second with 25 per

cent, and the True Path Party of Süleyman Demirel, the former prime minister and Mr Özal's rival for the affections of Turkey's entrenched conservative majority, won 19 per cent.

Immediately after the election Mr Özal went to the United States for an eye operation and for a check-up after the triple cardiac by-pass operation which he had undergone a year earlier.

Back home, he formed the new government, brushed aside accusations of malpractice levelled against one of his new ministers, quarrelled with the press (which is overwhelmingly opposed to him), and then travelled to Switzerland to bury the hatchet with the Greek Prime Minister, Mr Andreas Papandreu.

In April he will welcome Mrs Thatcher in Ankara, where she will be described as an Özalist and as a Thatcherite.

In foreign affairs, then, Mr Özal is doing well. But the home front is trickier. The country is paying the price of pre-electoral public spending. The cost of living has soared, and growth has had to be reined in to save the currency.

Professor İnönü and Mr Demirel are waiting by to collect the political price of austerity. Mr Özal's moves to thwart them are awaited with bated breath.

Andrew Mango



Textile operators at Bursa: one of Turkey's most important centres of modern industrial development

Changing face of the country

ECONOMY

From a Special Correspondent

The Turkish economy has shown some impressive results over the last few years. Since 1980, when Turgut Özal, as head of the State Planning Organization, introduced a package of reform measures, it has not only shown a rapid rate of growth, but has shed many of the barriers which used to cut it off from the world outside.

The regimes governing imports, exports and foreign exchange have been liberalized; and internally much has been done to improve its basic infrastructure.

As a result Turkey, though it still falls far behind the countries of western Europe in the average wealth of its population, has taken on many of the trappings of a developed country. Great efforts have gone into the construction of roads, the building of new housing, the installation of electricity and other such basic projects.

But there has been a price to pay for this policy of growth, and this year it looks as though the bill is being presented. Inflation, which has never been completely under control, shot up to new heights at the end of 1987 — figures vary, but some have put it as high as 60 per cent — and the government has felt compelled to take the first steps, at least, towards bringing the situation under control.

Whereas the growth rate was 8 per cent in 1986 and 6.8 per cent in 1987, a target of 5 per cent has been set for this year; plans for further investment in infrastructure projects and industrial development have been cut back; and interest rates have been raised.

Whether these measures will be enough remains to be seen. There has been sharp criticism of the government in the business community for not acting faster and more decisively.

The problem is that whereas the need for decisive action was clear a year ago much of 1987 was taken up with electioneering, and the government, rather than inflict unpleasant medicine on the voters, introduced measures more likely to win support — employee benefits, wage increases and public spending.

Politically, the strategy was successful. Mr Özal and his Motherland Party emerged from the election last November with an overwhelming majority in the Grand National Assembly. But far from easing the problem, the measures taken in the electoral period had only made it more difficult to get the economy on an even keel.

It was noticeable, and widely noticed, not least by the opposition parties, that Mr Özal introduced some steep price increases almost immediately after the election, even though there had been undertakings not to. But still more of the same is felt to be necessary.

This is not to deny what has been achieved in recent years. Turkey, which used to be a predominantly agricultural country, now has a considerable industrial sector, and its textiles in particular are technologically advanced, and so successful that they are a serious threat to their European rivals.

Turkish exports generally have been on the increase, and whereas they too were once largely agricultural, about 80 per cent are now industrial. Exports reached a total of \$10 billion last year, and are projected to reach \$12 billion this year.

The figures so far have not been enough to overcome the deficit in Turkey's current account, and its foreign debt is widely felt to be worrying — \$36 billion according to the government's own figures. But the current account deficit has been reduced, and the government talks optimistically of bringing the foreign debt down to \$26 billion by the year 2000.

The balance, then, is favourable to Mr Özal's policies. Turkey may not be "the Japan of the Middle East", which he, in an expansive mood, has called it. Growth is fragile and, though the country as a whole is better off, the benefits are not visible to the wage-earner or farmer who has to face constantly increasing prices.

But Turkey has begun to equip itself for competition with the outside world, and specifically with the present members of the European Community if, as it is now strongly urging, it is eventually admitted as a full member. That is not in any case likely to be before the end of the century.

The question, therefore, is whether Mr Özal and his colleagues can now overcome the difficulties which have blown up over the past year or so, and so feel free to continue the policies of growth which have transformed the country in a relatively short time.

Politically, the government is in a strong position, with its parliamentary majority. But there is a snag: there are still other elections due, for the municipal authorities, and they are important to the government because municipal spending has been a key part of recent strategy. So there is still the fear of incurring unpopularity if too tough a line is taken.

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مكتبة من الاصل

FOCUS TURKEY/3

The last grand Turk

Exceptional military prowess and breadth of vision turned

Süleyman I into a wonder of the world

HISTORY

The incomparable skyline of the Golden Horn in Istanbul, with its minarets and domes floating ethereally in subtle light, is a monument to the greatest of Ottoman Sultans, Süleyman I.

Western sovereigns referred to him as "the Magnificent", in grudging admiration of a military prowess which took the Ottoman Empire to its widest bounds. But the name also reflected the sheer style of the man.

The Venetian Ambassador wrote: "The Turkish Court is a superb sight, and most superb is the Sultan himself. One's eyes are dazzled by the gleam of gold and jewelry. Silk and brocade shimmer in flashing rays. What strikes one about Süleyman the Magnificent is not the flowing robes or his high turban. He is unique among the throne because his demeanour is that of a truly great superior."

Süleyman's accession in 1520, at the age of 26, caused such relief in the West that the Pope commanded litany to be sung in thanksgiving "that a gentle lamb had succeeded a fierce lion". The lion, Selim the Grim, had doubled the size of the Ottoman sultanate, conquering Egypt, the Holy Land and Arabia, but had failed against Western outposts in the Balkans and the Levant.

But Christendom was soon disabused, for Süleyman proved a far greater threat than ever his father had been. The new Sultan was said to be fond of study. His favourite reading, however, was *The Conquests of Alexander the Great*, and although not a religious fanatic, he had a strong sense of his role as Defender of the Faithful, with a duty to expand the influence of Islam.

The Ottoman capital thrived on tribute and a large slave force, as the first Rome had done, and these could



Splendour unsurpassed: Süleyman I the Magnificent, Sultan from 1520-1566

only be exacted from a defeated foe. So Turkish expansion, like a firestorm, needed a constant refuelling — of booty and territory — to keep the savage feudal army loyal to the Sultan.

Süleyman was able to provide fairly regular employment for his army, leading them from the saddle in 13 campaigns. He intervened in the politics of Europe at a vital juncture, when his two most powerful rulers, Charles V and Francis I, were at each other's throats.

A united Ottoman Empire was also able to take advantage of a disunited Christendom, torn apart by the Reformation. While Luther preached non-resistance to the Turks, Francis I sold out to Süleyman, giving him the use of Toulon as a base against the Spanish naval power. Barbarossa, the corsair turned Turkish admiral, promptly took advantage of it to sack Nice and carry off its population into slavery.

The first blast of the coming

storm had already been felt at Belgrade, when Süleyman's host swept through the Balkans, the Turks marching to the sound of their cannon — an unpleasant surprise for the Europeans — and strident martial music, which the Mehter Band provides today for tourists at the Topkapı.

The King of Hungary was killed escaping from the rout of his cavalry at Mohács in 1526, and his country was partitioned under Turkish protection; Charles V's brother, Ferdinand, having to pay tribute for the fragment left to the Habsburgs.

Fortunately for the West, Süleyman outmarched his supply lines, and by the time he finally appeared before the gates of Vienna in 1529, defences had been prepared and a garrison put in place whose morale was boosted by the knowledge that if the Turks broke through they would have to meet a large Habsburg army.

This was the turning-point of the campaign. Not even the

elite guard of the Janissaries could exploit the breach they made in the city's walls, and with winter coming on the Sultan turned homeward.

The main theatre of war then shifted to the Mediterranean. Slipping out of "pens" like those which can still be seen at Alanya, and following the green silk banner preserved in the naval museum at Istanbul, Barbarossa's sleek galleys plundered Christian shipping (except French) and raided the coasts of Italy and Spain.

But the continued presence of the Knights of St John at their new base in Malta prevented the Mediterranean from becoming a Turkish lake, and in 1565 Süleyman launched his last amphibious campaign to eliminate them. Thousands of Janissaries and Spahis were launched in attacking waves at the twin forts of St Elmo and San Angelo.

Twice the Knights had been ousted from island homes by the Turks. Desperate valour preserved this one for them. Only nine of them survived when St Elmo fell, but San Angelo held out. The siege was raised after three months' furious combat.

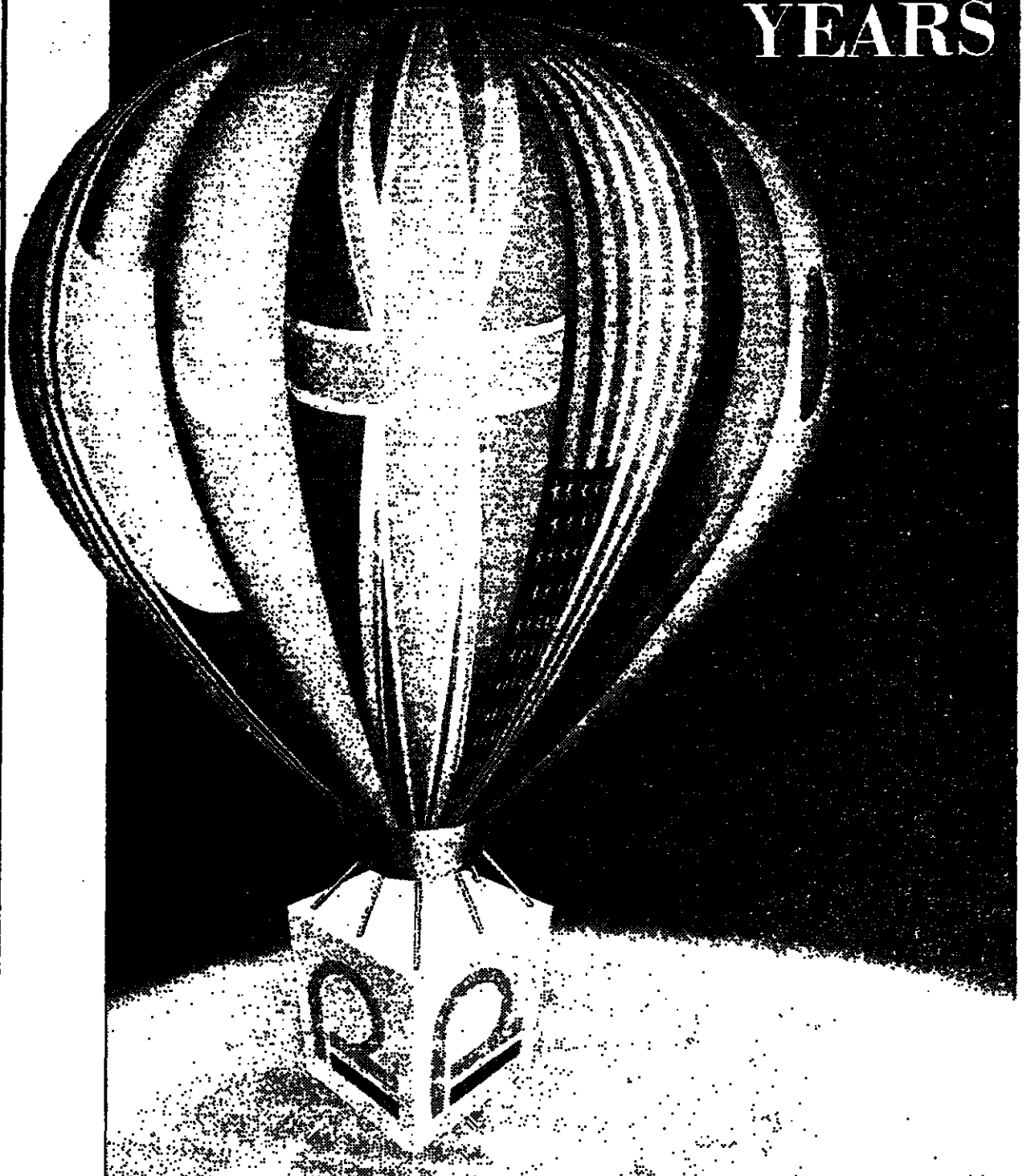
In Turkish history Süleyman is remembered as the Lawgiver, a subject with which he was concerned even on campaign and to which he devoted a large part of his declining years. He is credited with having codified the respective powers of the religious establishment and the state.

Implicitly, the statesmanship and breadth of vision which had made Süleyman's reign a wonder of the world, deserted him in late middle age. Mustapha, the heir who promised a glittering future for the dynasty, fell victim to harem politics.

Faced with a charge of treason, he rode across the bleak Anatolian plateau to meet his father near Erzurum on the Black Sea. The Sultan received his son in a darkened tent. A signal was given, and deaf-mutes emerged from the shadows to pluck the struggling prince. Another signal, and a twist of the bowstring ensured that the imperial turban passed not to Mustapha, but to Selim, a drunken sot, and the empire started on 400 years of decline.

John Crossland

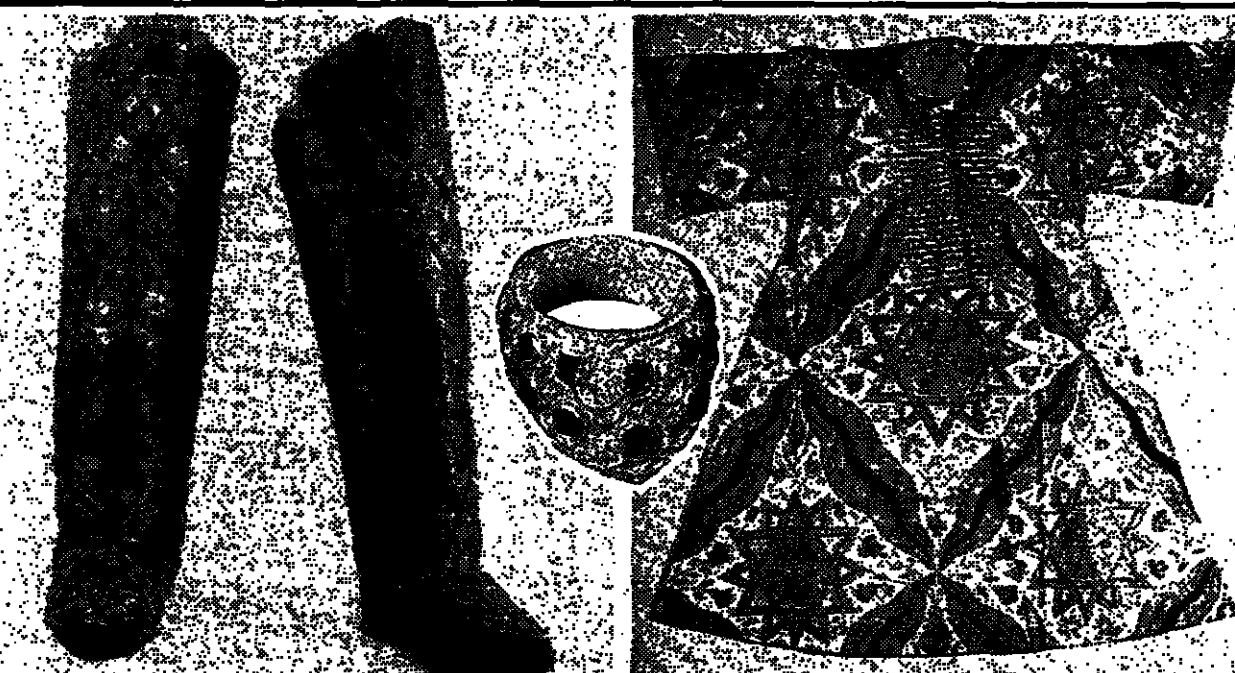
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Exhibition pieces: The 16th century boots of Sultan Selim II, in the centre, jewelled jade archer's rings and right, the Kemah kaftan with star pattern

A golden age for collectors

THE ARTS

The Ottoman state appeared in western Turkey in the late 13th century as one of the successor states to the Seljuk Sultans of Konya. Bursa, the early capital, is still in situation and architecture, one of the loveliest towns of Turkey.

But the fall of Constantinople in 1453 to Mehmet II, the Conqueror, made the Ottomans heirs to the great empires of antiquity and transformed their art and architecture.

Mehmet's own mosque of Fatih, though badly damaged and substantially rebuilt in the 18th century, remains the first of a long line of imperial mosques in Istanbul and Edirne to be inspired by the great dome of Hagia Sophia.

His viziers and generals were encouraged to build their own foundations within the Byzantine walls and repopulate quarters abandoned under the last Emperors, adapting Ottoman forms and styles of decoration.

They drew from the East as well. The tiles of the Green Mosque at Bursa (completed 1421) were the work of Persian craftsmen, and Mehmet II's palace fortress, now known as the Topkapı Saray (begun c.1465), included among its pavilions one still standing, the Çiğli Köşk (or Tiled Pavilion), whose exquisite tiles and plaster work were the work of an architect from Tabriz.

Mehmet's and his successors' courts were thronged by refugees from Europe and Asia and resident colonies of German and Italian merchants or adventurers, engineers or architects in search of patronage.

Mehmet himself patronised European medallists and painters like Gentile Bellini, who did his portrait (now in the National Gallery in London), in addition to the magnificently illuminated and bound manuscripts of the Arabic, Turkish and Persian classics he commissioned.

Virtuoso workmanship in luxury materials is a prominent feature of many Islamic cultures, but is particularly prominent in Ottoman arts, not least because the Sultans' taste had much in common with that of the European rulers of the High Renaissance.

Thus a partial inventory of Beyazit II's Treasury, dated 1505, lists objects in amber, jade, rock-crystal, ivory and ebony, many with gold or silver-gilt mounts and jewelled with emeralds, turquoises and rubies.

Selim I's sack of Tabriz (1514) and his conquest of Egypt in 1517 brought more prizes including, probably, many of the Yuan and early Ming Chinese porcelains which make the Topkapı Saray collection one of the greatest in the world; and skilled craftsmen to work for him.

His successor, Süleyman the Magnificent (1520-66), whose reign in the eyes of his successors was a golden age; was no less a collector than Mehmet II.

His campaigns in Hungary, Serbia, Mesopotamia, Iran and the Mediterranean, trade and tribute from Europe and newly subjugated provinces, and diplomatic gifts filled his treasury with goldsmiths' work from Venice and Ragusa; elaborate automaton clocks from South Germany and France; Florentine manuscripts and even sculpture from the palace of Matthias Corvinus (d. 1490) at Buda; porcelains, hardstones, gems and ivory from Iran; and yet more skilled craftsmen from Europe and Asia.

Collecting by booty is inevitably somewhat indiscriminate. Süleyman's conception of craftsmen on campaign may therefore not have entirely reflected his own taste, which favoured, evidently, objects like a sword made for him in 1526-7, signed by a Tekke Turkoman craftsman, with a jewelled ivory hilt, gold-damascened blade and skillfully wrought reliefs of dragons and phoenixes near the hilt.

But the patterned silks from the Bursa

looms, like the pottery of Iznik, both of which reached their apogee in his reign, show an entirely individual blend of European and Eastern motifs, skilfully exploited in bold designs in which, for example, naturalistic florist's flowers play an important role.

European interest in Süleyman was a product of the exceptionally close contacts between Europe and Turkey in his reign. For the first time much of the Near East was opened up to foreigners, and the journals of the many scholars, antiquarians, naturalists and diplomats who visited his domains were to establish a long lasting sympathy for the Turkish in the European consciousness.

Süleyman's epithet "the Magnificent" (to the Turks he was not Magnificent but Kanuni, "the Lawgiver") may have been given to him long after his death. If magnificence implies *vain* show this was sheer prejudice, for the great public festivals of his reign, even more than the masques and triumphs of Süleyman's Italian and Habsburg contemporaries, were the admiration of all Europe.

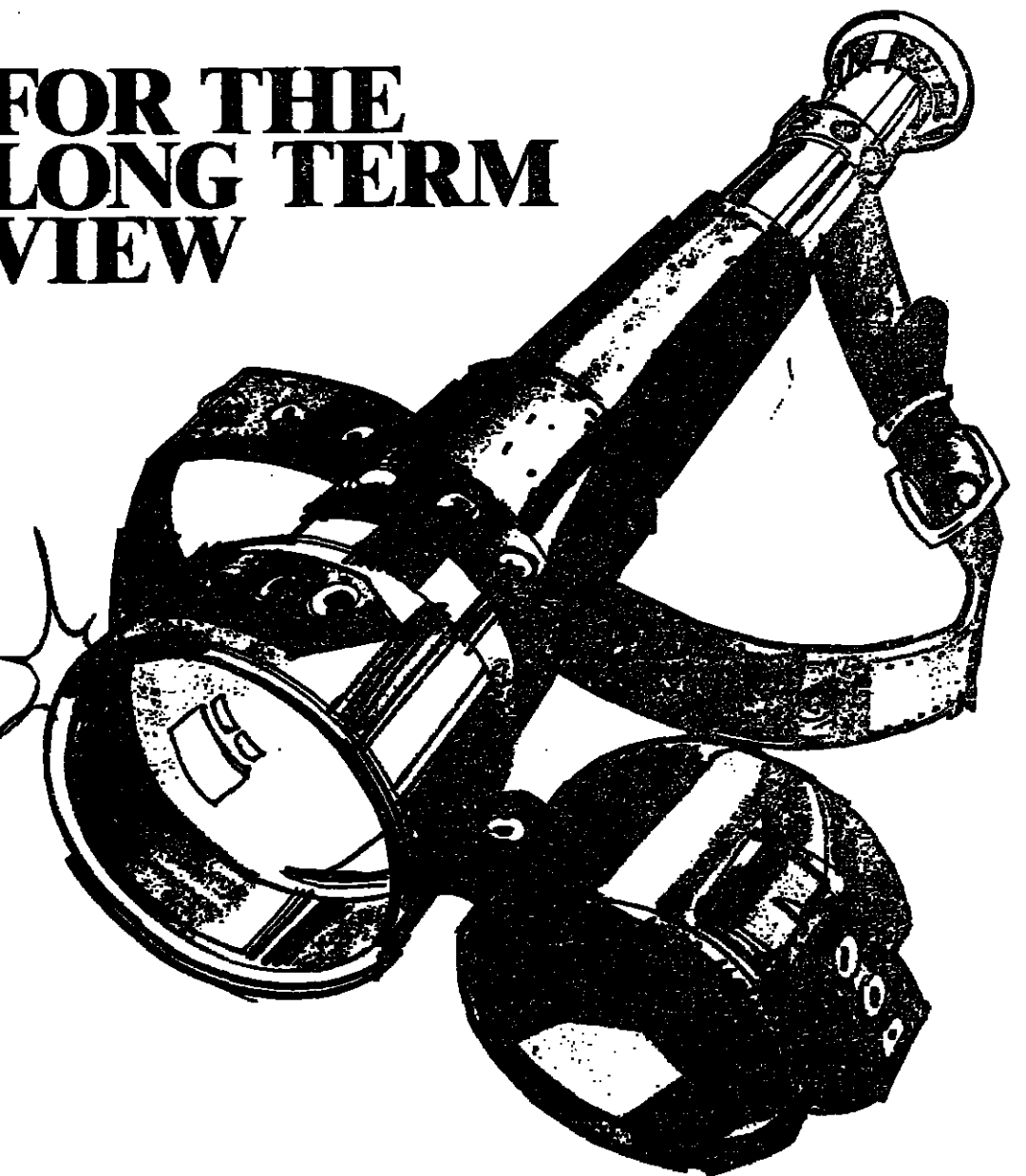
Even Süleyman's weekly procession to the Friday Prayer or the departure of his army on campaign, with pennons flying, Turkish music played by the Janissary bands, jewelled horse trappings, weapons and armour gleaming, and everyone from the Sultan down to his grooms clad in layers of garments of mohair, cut leather, magnificent silks and rare furs, were spectacles which cast parleys like the Field of the Cloth of Gold quite into the shade.

The present exhibition, the most important of its kind ever shown in Europe, brings some of that splendour to London, and enables us to re-experience the dazzled admiration of the traveller to Turkey in his reign.

Michael Rogers

Michael Rogers, deputy keeper of the department of Oriental Antiquities at the British Museum, has been responsible for the display of the exhibition.

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TURKEY/4

FOCUS

A proud tale of two Ottoman cities

TRAVEL

At the time of Süleyman the Magnificent, the capital of the Ottoman Empire was Istanbul, the former Constantinople, which had been captured by the Turks in 1453 writes Peter Strafford.

It was in Istanbul that Süleyman had his own vast mosque complex, the Süleymaniye, built, and where he and his wife, Roxelana, were buried.

The Süleymaniye, built by Sinan, the outstanding architect of the Ottoman Empire, is still a dominating presence on the Istanbul skyline, with its vast dome, its four minarets, and its associated buildings.

There were also two other cities, however, each of which had been the Ottoman capital for a time, and each of which retained the loyalty of the Sultans long after they had captured Istanbul — Bursa and Edirne. Both are worth visiting today for the magnificent monuments they still have from the heyday of the Ottomans.

The story of Bursa goes back to the days when the Ottomans, named after their leader, Osman Bey, were still a small group of warriors based in north-western Anatolia. In 1326, they had their first big success when they captured Bursa, a hill-town which had been capital of Bithynia, and which they made their first permanent capital.

Soon afterwards they crossed the Sea of Marmara into Europe, and in 1361 they captured Adrianople, originally founded by the Emperor Hadrian. They renamed it Edirne and, since it was a convenient base for their incursions into the Balkans,



they moved their capital there from Bursa.

It was from Edirne that Mehmet II, known as The Conqueror, advanced on Constantinople in 1453 to put an end to the Byzantine Empire.

Both cities have, not surprisingly, changed. Bursa, until recently a picturesque little town famous for its hot springs, and dominated by the Anatolian Mount Olympus, known as the Uludag, is now a large and bustling city which has done well out of Turkey's recent economic resurgence.

But the mosques built by the Sultans are still there. In the old centre of the town, just above the covered markets, is the Orhan Gazi mosque, built by Orhan I after he had captured Bursa, and not far away is the Ulu Cami, or Great Mosque, a large and spacious building put up by Beyazit I at the end of the 14th century.

Beyazit had the misfortune to be defeated and captured by Tamerlane in 1402, dying in captivity. The great north door of the mosque is thought to have been added by Tamerlane during his transient occupation of Bursa.

The great glory of Bursa, however, is the Yeşil Cami, or Green Mosque, which is up on the hill above the city, with views far out over the plain. The Green Mosque, built by Mehmet I, the son of Beyazit,



Happy hour in Istanbul: Men gather in the dusk for tea and cards and fishermen take a break in the Golden Horn

has an exquisite array of tiles, mainly a deep green, but including elaborate patterns in blue, white and yellow, with tendrils and flowers contrasting with Arabic inscriptions.

A visit to the Green Mosque is one of those unforgettable experiences, and the same is true of the Yeşil Turbe, or Green Tomb, just above it, where Mehmet I is buried in an elaborate coffin. Godfrey Goodwin, author of *A History of Ottoman Architecture*, describes the mihrab in the Green Mosque, giving the direction of Mecca, as "more than the gate of paradise: it is paradise itself".

Edirne is quite different, a simple market town in an

agricultural area where peasants drive into town in horse and trap, loaded up with fruit, vegetables or whatever else they have to sell. Set on the Thracian plain, it could be any Balkan town, if it were not for the magnificent imperial mosques which dominate its centre.

Perched on a hilltop and visible for miles around is the Selimiye mosque, built by Sinan for Selim II, son of Süleyman the Magnificent, and widely thought to be the finest of the whole Ottoman period. Sinan was 84 when it was finished in 1575, but you would never know that, so powerful is its impact.

The huge dome is framed by

four exceptionally tall minarets, which seem to carry it upwards. Inside, Sinan made consummate use of space and light, so that the eye takes in the breadth and height of the vast chamber while being borne up to the dome above.

There was a time when Edirne, or Adrianople, was on one of the main roads from Istanbul to western Europe — the Via Egnatia of the Romans. It has had a turbulent history, being captured by the Russians, among others, in the 19th century. Now, placed as it is on Turkey's little used borders with Greece and Bulgaria, it seems remote.

But it remains one of the highspots of Ottoman architecture. Apart from the Selimiye, there is the Eski Cami, or Old Mosque, begun at the time of feuding between the sons of Beyazit I and completed by Mehmet I; and nearby the extraordinarily striking Uç Serefeli mosque.

This mosque, one of the last to be built before the capture of Constantinople, has four minarets, all different — one with spiral fluting like a giant sick of barley-sugar, two with red and white tile patterns, and one with vertical fluting.

Then across the fields beyond the town is, inconspicuously, a huge and impressive mosque complex built by Beyazit II, complete with religious college, lunatic asylum, and out-buildings.

Great cooking and hospitality start at home Dining like a Sultan

Visitors to Turkey may well find themselves eating food which would have been familiar in Sultan Süleyman's day. Turkish cuisine has added to its repertoire rather than abandoning medieval and early modern recipes in the way we have in Western Europe.

As they have cooked on the hearths of housewives for centuries, nutritious vegetable and meat stews simmer on the ranges of innumerable small restaurants across Anatolia, and you may well be invited or can ask to see what your host is offering you.

Great cooking has traditionally been nurtured in the home, but around Konya there is also the legacy of the Mevlana dervishes who recognize that man's food becomes part of him and his soul, and therefore attach a proper importance to eating and cooking. Novices of this order had to spend one thousand and one days working in the kitchens.

It is perhaps not too fanciful to see this influence in the several good restaurants in Konya.

You will notice that dishes and flavourings can vary from region to region, and season to season. In the south around Adana more and often hotter spices are common than further north, where variety of flavour can depend more upon herbs. Anyone who likes sampling curries should certainly try an Adana kebab.

Meze, little dishes or hors d'oeuvre type food, introduced to accompany relaxed drinking parties it is said, has been much written about, and the restaurants of Istanbul and the Bosphorus probably still offer the greatest choice.

But along the south coast you could pick this from among the meze offered, a delicate-tasting, coral-coloured dip of red peppers and sesame seed.

Then making your way north, while sight-seeing at Yalvac or Afyon you should buy boxes of *kaymak*, a thick cream sweet.

Or further north again, along the Black Sea coast, there are evidently discerning sweet teeth. Zonguldak, a

COOKING

mining town which the tourist will probably visit only by mistake, has fine pastrycooks, while the port of Trabzon produces excellent nougat.

A difference the discerning traveller will quickly remark is the variation in cooking fat. In European Turkey, where wide fields of sunflowers border roads around Edirne, the oil used is not surprisingly from sunflower seed.

Once across the Sea of Marmara from Istanbul, olive-trees so gnarled that one feels as if the Fathers of the Church who devised our Nicene creed must have seen them as they passed this way en route to Iznik, the former



Nicaea, provide the cooking medium.

Further east and south butter appeared in the markets in days when it was rarely seen even in Istanbul.

The ubiquitous *kofte* which have now become more common in this country, minced raw meat mixed with herbs and spices and stewed or grilled, are usually blended with bulgur (cracked wheat) in the country, but often with breadcrumbs in the town. Gaziantep, far to the south-east, has a special bulgur, *firik*.

Variation in the taste of *kofte* due to the use of different herbs and spices

compliment a fine palate, but those who wish for something different, and who visit Turkey when the lambs are young, should look out for tiny *pizzola* on the menu — little chops the like of which cannot be found in Britain.

Cold meats include *pastirma*, spiced pressed beef subtle-flavoured yet pungent compared with that stocked by most of our delicatessens. Connoisseurs rate that from Kayseri the best.

And even cheese, which cannot honestly be placed high on a list of Turkish gastronomic experiences — although *dil peyniri* in season is delicately agreeable, and there is a tactile pleasure in pulling away the slithers — has regional variations as shoppers in Uskudar, the part of Istanbul immediately across the Bosphorus from the old city, will discover.

For anyone interested in the variety of Turkish food this is a good area to shop. Enough Anatolians make a good enough living in the city to afford nostalgia food, and quick communications mean that they can indulge in their local specialties, which are sold in Uskudar.

Drinking with a meal may require discretion. Some eating places are dry, and in these, besides bottled water, there will probably be fruit juices, grape juice, or *ayran*, a refreshing liquid yogurt excellent for the digestion and for travelling on.

In the more cosmopolitan establishments the more usual alcoholic drinks will be available. Otherwise the Turks drink wine, beer, or *raki*, an aniseed-flavoured spirit akin to Pernod.

Turkey is a hospitable country. It is in the visitor's own interest to prevent this virtue encouraging his hosts to replace a justifiably proud cuisine with international food.

In a land of varying fruits and vegetables growing quickly in fertile soil under sunny skies you cannot go far wrong, and if fortune favours, you will eat a dish of a finesse that Sultan Süleyman himself in the luxury of his *saray* might have envied you.

Gillian Goodwin

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(FINANCIAL TIMES Survey on Turkey, December 16, 1987)

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For more information, please contact Mr. Ömer Erginsoy, Assistant General Manager.



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GENERAL APPOINTMENTS

February 18, 1988

Roger McSweeney, as a personnel specialist, assesses how a company can retain its most valued employees in crisis

The number and quality of jobs available in banking and financial services — the stock market notwithstanding — makes the industry an enticing one for employees. The challenges and rewards of the City have attracted the cream of Britain's school-leavers and graduates. But this unrivalled scope for executive success has created a personnel manager's nightmare. How can a company, having attracted the best, hold on to them?

This problem is thrown into sharp relief during periods of intense take-over activity — uncertain times during which companies to be acquired risk losing their brightest high-flyers.

Acquisitions and mergers have profound implications in people terms — on jobs, pay, prospects, careers and work satisfaction. Where these issues are not addressed correctly and urgently, the telephone lines soon begin to buzz with highly marketable, highly mobile staff seeking their next move up.

The long-stay job in financial services has become a thing of the past. In now is the trapeze act, with high-flyers coming and going wherever the money offers.

In the heat of the take-over chase, when the focus is primarily on the strategic and economic value of the company to be acquired, all too often scant

attention is given to the human aspects of absorbing the new organization. Contested bids exaggerate the marriage problems severalfold.

But even when the bid is friendly and agreement is reached with ease, as in the great majority of cases, the people aspect is a potential minefield, which must be handled with great care.

Older and bigger institutions may come to a take-over with coffers overflowing. But they also frequently come with well established management structures, jealously guarded pecking orders and cultures, in which salary and promotion depend on length of service as much as on achievement. The culture clash in a take-over, particularly if the acquisition is a smaller, entrepreneurial firm, can cause havoc with staff on both sides.

If the bigger company stifles the smaller, the go-getters in the latter will get up and go, thus depriving the buyer of the true value of the purchase. If they are treated with velvet gloves, however, and given special privileges not offered within the parent company, frustration within the home team can spread like wildfire.

The only way for both parties to the take-over to gain maximum benefit from the transaction is to generate among all staff a strong will to succeed, and to provide

The take-over winners are the ones who care for their staff morale



them with every opportunity to do so.

The first point at which the practical involvement of personnel specialists is vital is at the planning stage of the deal, when it has become more than a gleam in the management's eye.

The human audit must run in conjunction with the financial. The implications of the exercise on the staffing and terms and conditions of the company to be acquired must be worked through, and not simply at senior management level.

When it comes to the announcement of the deal, excellence in communications is the key — not only at senior executive level, or with analysts and the financial Press, but with the staff of both companies. It has to be recognized

that this can be an uncertain, psychologically stressful time for the workforce of the company to be taken over. It is therefore essential to ensure that they are kept briefed at every stage of the operation. If they are left in the dark, confusion will reign — and this is among the worst of all demotivators.

Staff must be given as many assurances as possible about the future. And whatever the poker play in the lead-up to the deal, promises must be adhered to — bad faith produces disgruntled employees and is no way to start a fruitful relationship.

The next step is to make the marriage work. On the broad management front, the most fruitful way forward may be to take a "softly, softly" approach towards

integration. Where synergies exist, of course, they should be exploited — but on a time scale that allows bridges to be built solidly. Painting the whole of an enlarged organization in the same colour is not the best way to bring out the highlights in the constituent parts.

In personnel terms, a take-over need not necessarily mean any disruption to the overall terms and conditions under which the acquired company operates. The bonnet must be lifted and the mechanics thoroughly checked to make sure that they are of a satisfactory standard and in good working order, but if that is so there is no need to change for change's sake. In the parent company, also, pay and conditions must be kept competitive

within the market in which the new merged enterprise operates.

In the longer term, the entrepreneurs who helped the smaller company to success must be allowed to benefit from the extra resources that the larger group offers, and to develop within the larger corporation.

In the service sector, much of the cost of an acquisition is likely to be the purchase price of goodwill. Yet goodwill can be maintained only if the structures of the corporation accommodate the people from the newly acquired partner and allow them to thrive.

Essential to all this is that the expanded company should be able to offer all staff, including the newcomers, a challenge and rewarding future. Thus the

increasingly diversified TSB Group provides able and ambitious personnel with opportunities to zig-zag their way to senior positions, gaining experience across a wide range of businesses operating under the group umbrella.

This approach speeds up the integration process as ideas and skills flow freely between the various parts of the group reinforcing the business logic behind any take-over — the creation of a whole that is greater than the sum of its parts.

The personnel factor is sometimes perceived as the "soft" angle to acquisitions, a side order to the main course. But once the legal documents are sealed and the advisers have packed up and gone home, it is the workforce that will determine whether the take-over succeeds.

Poor handling of an acquisition, from the personnel point of view, can rapidly drive a newly formed corporate marriage on to the rocks, the partners torn by rivalry and contradictory goals.

The winners of the take-over game, particularly in the service industries, are those companies that place the highest priority on staff morale during the deal and afterwards — so unlocking the potential for enhanced profits, growth and long-term prosperity.

Roger McSweeney is director of personnel at TSB Group

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The National Council has in mind an appointment on a fixed-term contract, initially for five years, at a salary on the scale of £33,783-£35,873 per annum including Inner London weighting and superannuation; a higher salary will be considered, if necessary, for a candidate with exceptional qualifications or experience.

Fuller details of the post are available on application to John Faith, Austin Knight Selection, 17 St Helen's Place, London EC3A 6AS. Tel: 01-628 5021 (01-256 6925 evenings/weekends), quoting reference 369/JF/88.

Closing date for receipt of full applications: 11th March 1988. NCET is an Equal Opportunities employer.

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Our Client is a Lancia and Suzuki Main Dealer. As part of their 1988 expansion plans they are looking for a fifth person to join their successful sales team.

Your job will be to sell new and used vehicles from their Wimbledon showroom.

A good salary is provided (basic, commission and use of company car). If you are aged 25-30 with a proven track record in sales (car-related markets preferred), please call:

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Applications are invited for the post of Librarian and Information Services Manager in the Manchester Business School, to take over the direction of the MBS Library and Information Services. MBS is one of the major business schools of the UK, and is also the Faculty of Business Administration of the University of Manchester. As such it maintains an excellent library of business information, which is used by faculty, post-graduate and post-experience students of management, and others. Important new developments include the provision of information to companies and the use of a sophisticated database management system for library processing activities. The person appointed would be expected to expand these areas. Candidates should have a good honours degree, a post-graduate qualification (or relevant experience) in librarianship or information science, knowledge and experience of computer applications and telecommunications in information work, experience or interest in the provision of fee-based services to companies, and experience of managing a specialised or academic library. Knowledge of business information sources will be an advantage. Salary according to qualifications and experience within grade 5 (£19,605 - £22,910 p.a.) or 6 (£23,680 minimum) of the salary scales for Administrative, Library and Computer Staff. Further particulars (and application form returnable by March 7th, 1988) obtainable from the Registrar, The University, Manchester M13 9PL. Tel: 061-275 2023. Quote ref 31/88/TL. The University is an equal opportunities employer.

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Allied Dunbar Assurance plc is an equal opportunities Group. Applications are welcome regardless of sex, marital status, ethnic origin or disability.
Contact Gerry Beesett or Peter Richards on 01-637-7200



PERSONAL FINANCIAL GUIDANCE

SECRETARY AND FINANCE OFFICER

required by small charity concerned with practice, training and research in psychotherapy, from about 1 July 1988.

Applicants should be qualified chartered secretaries with sound accountancy experience and familiarity with computerised records and accounting systems. Commencing salary £17,810 on scale rising to £20,775.

Further information and application form available from The Secretary, Tavistock Institute of Medical Psychology, Tavistock Centre, Belsize Lane, London NW3 5BA.

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Team leadership opportunities within established sales force, in the London area, for those with management experience and proven organising skills. The company has UK origins going back 50 years and is part of a group whose assets exceed £200m. Product range includes life assurance, savings, unit trusts, investment and portfolio management, sickness insurance, mortgages and personal banking. First year salary potential of £18,000 to £25,000. Previous sales experience not necessary, but an advantage.

Excellent residential training programme. Preferred age group 25 to 44. Licensing to requirements of Financial Services Act.

For further details and assessment interview, telephone Lynda Ballaie 01-637-7200 (Thursday after 4.30 pm, other weekdays between 9.00 am and 6.30 pm)

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GENERAL APPOINTMENTS

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DEPUTY OMBUDSMAN

The Insurance Ombudsman Bureau provides an independent complaints procedure for personal policyholders in a significant sector of the insurance market in the UK.

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The post is likely to appeal particularly to those highly qualified in law who have experience in business and/or administration.

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London WC1B 5EH

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THE SUNDAY TIMES
THE TIMES

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You will be given full training both in the product and in technical skills before you start, and regular training sessions will be given as new products are released.

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These positions are available immediately

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If you feel you have the drive and ambition to succeed in a selling career, are a good communicator and commercially aware then please telephone 01 739 8410

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GENERAL APPOINTMENTS

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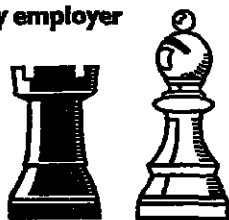
We are looking for people who can analyse complex circumstances. We don't pretend that learning the necessary skills and diplomacy to agree tax liabilities, investigate evasion and negotiate settlements is an easy undertaking, but it could hold a very promising future. After a few months training you will be accepting your own casework, and making your own decisions. Subject to successful progress, you can expect your first promotion within 4-5 years. Eventually, you can look forward to running your own tax district.

You must be under 36 with a first or second class honours degree in any subject or an acceptable equivalent. Final year students may apply. Salary according to qualifications and experience, starts from £8000 rising to £25,335. Working in Central London, you would receive £19,695 on your first promotion. Beyond this there are opportunities for promotion to the most senior levels in the Civil Service. Salaries are higher in London. Training can normally begin at an office in the area of your choice.

To find out more and for an application form please write to the Civil Service Commission, Alencon Link, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 1JB, or telephone Basingstoke (0256) 468531 (answering service operates outside office hours). Please quote ref: A/88/320/134.

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c £23,000 + car + bonus
Midlands

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This is a classic turnaround situation and will provide the successful candidate with the challenge and opportunity to demonstrate real management flair and ability which would in turn lead to a long term career within the Group.

Ideal candidates will have a proven track record successfully managing, with full profit responsibility, a similar sized company or alternatively a major division of a larger enterprise. The nature of the business would mean that an engineering background could prove useful but this is far less important than overall general management skills.

We are looking for a highly motivated General Manager who is capable of leading the management team by example and who knows, from first hand practical experience, how to get the 'bottom-line' right.

In return for these attributes our client would negotiate an attractive package with a salary of around £23,000, a fully expensed executive car and a performance related bonus. In addition a full relocation package is available in appropriate cases.

Interested candidates are invited to contact Ivor Norton, in the strictest confidence, quoting reference number S778898.

Ivor Norton Management Services Ltd.

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To apply, please send a CV to
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Beverages Limited



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- company car fleet administration
- personnel
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Candidates for this demanding position must be commercially aware, self-motivated graduates in the age range of 25-30. The chartered secretaries or similar qualification would be useful though not essential. Detailed CV's please to:

Andrew P Nelson
Deputy Group Managing Director
The Megaleasing Group
Heriot House
Guildford Street
Chertsey
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(Entrance and reception 30 Market Place, First floor)

Tel 01-580 0843

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£14,000 pa

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Salary to be agreed.

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Further expansion at Paragon Communications means... Outstanding opportunities for secretaries in PR and publishing

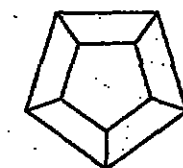
In seven years, Paragon Communications plc has grown from nothing to become one of the top public relations consultancies in the UK, achieving publicly-quoted status last December.

Continued growth means we urgently need several well-dressed, enthusiastic secretaries to support account teams working on public relations and contract publishing programmes for some of Britain's best-known companies.

Outstanding typing skills essential (no s/h) with knowledge of Wang an asset. The ability to work under pressure and meet deadlines is vital.

In return we offer an excellent rewards package including salary of up to £9,000 pa, quarterly profit sharing, private medical insurance, subsidised sports club and five weeks' annual holiday.

Please contact Deborah Vokes or Joanna Fowler on 734-6030 (or 741-7135 after 8pm) for more details. NO AGENCIES.



Paragon Communications plc
Film House, 142 Wardour Street, London, W1V 3AU

Secretary to Finance Director Magazine Publishing

Glossy magazine publishing house in modern West End offices seeks experienced secretary for its hard-working Finance Director. Excellent typing essential, an interest in WP/PC's useful. Friendly environment. Please write with full cv, including availability and present salary to: Beverly Flower, Director of Personnel, National Magazine Co. Ltd, National Magazine House, 72 Broadwick Street, London W1V 2BP

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CJA RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS GROUP

3 London Wall Buildings, London Wall, London EC2M 5PU

Tel: 01-588 3588 or 01-588 3576

Telex No. 887374 Fax No. 01-256 8501

CJA COMPANY SECRETARIAL ASSISTANT

CITY OF LONDON £14,000-£18,000

UK HOLDING COMPANY OF A MAJOR INTERNATIONAL GROUP
As a result of the continuing expansion of the Group's UK operations, a new position has been created in the Company Secretariat which has direct responsibility for over 60 companies. On our client's behalf, we invite applications from graduates in their mid-to-late 20's, who must be recently or part-qualified AGIS, with at least 3 years' experience in the Secretariat of a major corporation or financial institution. Working closely with the Company Secretary, the successful candidate will assume responsibility for providing a wide range of company secretarial support to a number of the group's diversified companies, initially concentrating on those in the financial sector. A knowledge of regulatory legislation will therefore be useful. Personal qualities considered essential include excellent written and spoken presentation skills, attention to detail and the flexibility and initiative to work in a small, professional team in regular contact with both Directors and Shareholders. Initial salary negotiable £14,000-£18,000 + contributory pension, free life assurance and subsidised BUPA. Applications in strict confidence, under reference CSA 4577/TT, to the Managing Director:

CAMPBELL-JONSTON ASSOCIATES (MANAGEMENT RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS) LTD., 3 LONDON WALL BUILDINGS, LONDON WALL, LONDON EC2M 5PU. TELEPHONE 01-588 3588 or 01-588 3576. TELEX: 867374. FAX: 01-256 8501.

01-481 4481

BANKING & ACCOUNTANCY

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SEMINARS FOR CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

Tuesday
**1st
MARCH
1988**

SEMINAR WORKING OVERSEAS 1988/1989

6.15 p.m. - 8.15 p.m.
REFORM CLUB PALL MALL
GUEST SPEAKERS
PRICE WATERHOUSE

- To be discussed:
- Which overseas location best suits your background and experience?
 - When should I apply and for how long should I go?
 - How does the lifestyle overseas differ from the U.K.?
 - What are the technical and reporting requirements in various locations?
 - Which are the most competitive locations?
 - When to return without losing salary and status?

SEMINAR SMALL/MEDIUM FIRM TRAINED

WHAT'S MY NEXT STEP?

6.15 p.m. - 8.15 p.m.
RIVER ROOM, SAVOY HOTEL LONDON WC2.
GUEST FIRMS

ARTHUR ANDERSEN • BINDER HAMLYN • TOUCHE ROSS & CO

- To be discussed:
- Mainstream Audit, Business Services, Tax, Computer Audit, Financial Services etc.
 - Large versus small firm.
 - Internal and external training facilities.
 - When to move into industry and commerce.
 - Overseas secondments.
 - Promotion and remuneration prospects.

To reserve a place at either of the evenings, please telephone Gary Johnson or Gerard Evans on 01-836 9501 (24 hours) or complete and return the FREEPOST coupon below to Douglas Lambias Associates Limited, FREEPOST, 410 Strand, London WC2R 0ER.

I wish to attend the following Seminar(s) please reserve a place and my own personal information pack.

☐ Small/medium firm trained Seminar
☐ Working Overseas Seminar
☐ I am unable to attend the above Seminar(s) but would like to receive more general information.
☐ I would like to arrange a meeting with a DLA consultant to (please state preferred UK location).

NAME (Mr/Ms/Ms) _____
FIRST NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
HOMETEL NO. _____ OFFICE TEL NO. _____
DATE/STAGE OF QUALIFICATION _____

FINANCIAL & MANAGEMENT RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS
DOUGLAS LAMBIAS
LONDON BIRMINGHAM LIVERPOOL MANCHESTER ABERDEEN EDINBURGH GLASGOW
DOUGLAS LAMBIAS ASSOCIATES LIMITED, 410 STRAND, LONDON WC2R 0NS
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accountants

DOES YOUR SALARY INCLUDE LONDON WAITING?

Waiting for promotion?
Waiting for crowded tube trains?
Waiting for your pay to catch up with rocketing house prices?
Isn't it time you put your career on the move?

We have outstanding opportunities for Young Accountants in the North and Midlands in all the specialisations within public practice - particularly taxation, investigation and insolvency; and also industry and commerce.

Attractive property prices, first rate shopping, social and cultural facilities - and the time to enjoy them - all combine to make your move out of London your best decision yet.

Still concerned about the weighting? Don't worry - you'll find salary levels highly realistic.

Phone or write now to LINK Financial Recruitment:

- Karen Morton, (021-233 3403), Phoenix House, 1-3 Newhall Street, Birmingham B3 3NH;
- Graham Thompson, (0532-446941), Goodwood House, Infirmary St., Leeds LS1 2JW;
- Julian Gibson, (0533-470525), 24 New Walk, Leicester, LE1 6TR.

Interviews can be arranged in London.

LINK
FINANCIAL RECRUITMENT

FINANCE MANAGER £28,000 + Car W.London	Reporting to the Financial Director, this key management position in a leading market research company would suit an experienced accountant with proven supervisory and management information experience. Responsibility for the provision of accurate information, forecasting, staff recruitment and motivation. Promotion within 2 years. Ref: JPB.212
COMPANY SECRETARY To £25,000 + Car North Hants	Increasing volumes of business has resulted in the appointment of a company secretary for this renowned international technology group. The candidate should be A.C.S. or a qualified accountant with a keen interest in the broad responsibilities of this position. A stimulating role in a progressive environment. Ref: AN.227
CHIEF ACCOUNTANT £24,000 + Car W.London	Successful subsidiary of diversified engineering group requires a good number two to the Finance Director. The aim of this position is the provision of management information and financial advice. Candidates should be familiar with costing methods and computing. Preference will be given to motivated candidates. Ref: AC.140
TROUBLE-SHOOTERS To £23,000 + Car S.E.London	International leisure group seeks young accountants who wish to use their skills in an unconventional role. Providing commercial advice to senior management, applicants should have good planning and budgeting skills. An extrovert personality and a desire to get involved in all aspects of the group's business. Ref: AC.265
FINANCIAL ANALYST £20,000 + Bona + Car Berks	Continued expansion at home and abroad has necessitated the recruitment of a young qualified graduate. As a blue chip commercial organisation every opportunity will be given to ambitious candidates to vary and progress their career. The position involves the analysis of operations in 6 major European centres. Ref: AN.154
OPERATIONAL AUDIT To £20,000 + Car E.Midlands	A prominent and diverse international manufacturing group offers advanced and rapid career development prospects to recently qualified A.C.A.s. The varied responsibilities will provide exposure to sophisticated operating systems and controls, project management and business performance. Candidates should be willing to undertake some overseas travel. Ref: MJH.195

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Develop your Skills in our Overseas Life Department
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Sun Alliance Life is one of the UK's largest life operations with an impressive growth record, and life funds under management worldwide in excess of £5 billion. With our expanding operations overseas we are looking for additional staff at various levels with actuarial experience to join our Overseas Life Department at Head Office. You will have passed some actuarial exams and/or have at least 3 years' life assurance experience and be ready for the next step in your career. You will be given responsibility for providing an effective analysis and research service relating to our long term business overseas. Comprehensive training can be provided for a varied job which may lead to opportunities for further advancement in the UK or overseas.

The ability to write clear concise reports, good communication skills, plus the ability to work closely with senior management, are essential. A second language would be an advantage.

Salary in the range indicated will reflect ability and experience. Excellent benefits include mortgage and relocation assistance, where appropriate.

Please write with a detailed C.V. quoting present benefits package or telephone for an application form to: Wilma Park, Life Personnel Services, Sun Alliance Insurance Group, Sun Alliance House, North Street, Horsham, West Sussex RH12 1BZ Tel: Horsham (0403) 64141 ext 3519.

Sun Alliance Life
PENSIONS • INVESTMENT • PROTECTION
Sun Alliance Insurance Group incorporating Phoenix Assurance

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACCOUNTANTS

Texas Instruments Limited are world leaders in the fast moving field of electronics.

We are presently looking for accountants to work in two major areas of our organisation - a MANUFACTURING ACCOUNTANT for the Manufacturing Section of our Semiconductor Control Department, and an ACCOUNTANT for the Control Department in our Systems Marketing Division (Industrial Systems).

You should be part or fully qualified (preferably ACCA or ACMA) with at least 18 months' experience in a manufacturing environment. Ideally, you should also have hands-on knowledge of manufacturing or operational computer systems.

Good team members, with the ability to work under pressure, and the confidence to deal with personnel at all levels, candidates should have excellent communication skills and be eager for career advancement.

Excellent salaries and benefits packages accompany both these career opportunities. Interested? Then please write, with full CV to Mrs V Tilbury, Texas Instruments Ltd, Mantol Lane, Bedford MK41 7PA, quoting Ref: MH46, or call Bedford (0234) 223599 for an application form.

TEXAS INSTRUMENTS
Freedom to innovate, room to grow.

ACCOUNTANT

London to £15,000
INTERNATIONAL OIL COMPANY

This is an opportunity for a young accountant to make a career move to one of the world's leading independent oil companies. You will become a key member in their small accounting team, working on a wide variety of tasks relating to the presentation and analysis of financial information. The company has a well developed computerised accounting system. Building on the knowledge of joint venture/oil industry accounting principles, gained in this position, excellent opportunities exist for future promotions within the organisation.

To be a candidate you will be aged 22-30, studying for an accounting qualification and have at least three years' accounting experience in a commercial environment. Oil industry experience would be ideal but not essential.

The company offers an attractive salary and benefits package.

To apply please write with full cv to: Stephen Cole, SMCL Oil & Gas Ltd, Recruitment Consultants, 2 Queen Anne's Gate Buildings, Dartmouth Street, London SW1H 9BP or telephone 01-222 7733.

SMCL
OIL & GAS RECRUITMENT

AMA A CITY CHALLENGE

Whilst the Stock Market suffers, our client grows. To accelerate expansion they need

Commodity Brokers to £22,000

You must be motivated by pressure and financial rewards, be 21 to 26 with a good standard of education and have excellent interpersonal skills. Experience in this field is not necessary but a desire to succeed is.

Call
Philip Young
01-631 3275
Alexander Mann Associates PLC
sales recruitment specialists
231 Tottenham Court Road
London W1P 9AE

Management Accountants with a Difference

£17,000 + car + benefits

NORTH LONDON & NORTHERN HOME COUNTIES

In essence our brief is simple. We have to provide our client with three of the most talented accounting professionals in the business.

As a young, highly ambitious accountant the role calls for a sharp mind and a "hands-on" attitude.

Your commercial experience, ideally gained in a retail or decentralised operation, will lead to an important role in determining the direction of one of the Companies in the Group.

As part of a management team you will be handling a multi-million operation, so energy, expertise and professionalism will be called upon. As a 25-38 year old, you can qualify for these positions either through experience or by being a qualified ACCA/ICMA.

Our client, by the way, is a rapidly expanding multi-million retail plc with over 20 outlets specialising in the consumer goods market place. If you are looking for a true management challenge, with real growth potential, then write to Liz Mudge now enclosing a brief resume of your career to date to:

RES RECRUITMENT ENHANCEMENT SERVICES
8 Dorset Square, London NW1 6PU 01-486 0613

Senior / Manager W1 to £19,000

Continuously growing firm of Chartered Accountants with Partners from the Top 8 require a Senior/Manager for one of their 3 audit groups. A high level of client contact will be encouraged together with the opportunity to work on larger audits. If you currently hold the position of Senior, are either ACA, ACCA, or Timebarred and looking for a challenging opportunity, call

Vivienne Rowe
01 242 6321
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to £50,000 basic + car bonus etc
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0903 820770.
KP Personnel Agcy.

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T.O.T.O.H.G.'s urgently sought by Chartered Accountancy firms for their Tax Departments. Early promotions, full range of tax experience and high salaries. Locations include: Home Counties, Midlands, Scotland and London. Call:
STEVEN MARSHALL
at
Personnel Resources
on
01-242-6321

FINANCIAL MANAGER

Major importer of high fashion mens footwear based in NW2 needs a very capable, enthusiastic Accounts Manager to run a busy audit department. This is a senior position involving management of staff and duties will involve cost accounting, financial planning, PAYE and VAT. Suitable applicants should be aged 28-45 with minimum two years experience. An accounting qualification is desirable.
Salary £18,000 pa + bonus scheme.
Tel: 01-208 0066.

LEGAL BOOKKEEPER
Required for busy solicitor in SW1, must be familiar with VAT, local and H.M. management accounts, and computer.
Salary £12,000 pa.
Reply to BOX 342.

ALL BOX NO. REPLY SHOULD BE SENT TO:
BOX NO. DEPT.
P.O. BOX 484,
VIRGINIA STREET,
WATFORD,
LONDON,
W1 0DD.

MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS CITY £16 - 18K

Young recent/part qualified Assistant Management Accountant with Assistant & an outgoing personality required to work within full Group. A knowledge of Management Accs, Production & exp. of Man/PC systems preferred. Highly respected Co. offering lots of scope plus excellent benefits (incl. profit share) to someone who likes to work hard/play hard.

PLEASE RING: 01 580 4766
CROSS SELECTION

ACCOUNTANT CAREER PROSPECTS

Progressive W. End practice seek a newly qualified A.C.A. or A.C.C.A. for varied and interesting work with their clients. Mainly financial with some audit and taxation work. Salary is negotiable to £18,000.

For further details and immediate interview please telephone

VERONICA LAPA 01-937 5311
Centacom Accountancy Staff
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01-481 4481

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01-481 4481

ACCOUNTANCY**International Publishers, City
European Accountant**

Prospects and a generous benefits package on offer. If you have the experience of and the enthusiasm for, the design and implementation of financial and management information and accounting systems.

Salary: £20,000**Design Co., South West
Financial Accountant**

Study package on offer to self motivated individual who has a flexible, yet aggressive attitude to work. Fully computerised department with a futuristic view to accountancy.

Salary: £17,000**Advertising Co., West London
Company Accountant**

Stepping stone: Young expanding company offer limitless responsibility and opportunity to a young Part Qual who is committed to qualifying.

Salary: £15,000**Phone Josephine Evans on 631 1005**

PRICE JAMIESON
GROUP
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS
PARADISE HOUSE 101-102 OLD STREET LONDON W1P 6PA
TELEPHONE 01-586 7702

**International
Financial Risk
Management****Haywards Heath, Sussex**

Our Client, a rapidly growing and successful international financial risk management company, is seeking to appoint two high-calibre candidates to join a small, highly motivated team providing advisory, information and training services. Applicants should be prepared to work in an intellectually demanding environment and will need to articulate and define their views clearly. Knowledge of financial markets will be a distinct advantage.

Economic Research Associate

The appointee, of graduate calibre, will work closely with the senior economist and assist in the research and generation of the company's publications and other briefing material on the economic and financial outlook for the major economies and currencies.

Software Systems Development Associate

A minimum of one year's experience with database management systems (including both design and implementation) is desirable for this position. The appointee will have responsibility for the development of the company's sophisticated information system and other in-house software.

An excellent remuneration package together with outstanding prospects within this growing company are assured.

In the first instance, please write to or telephone Neil Salt in complete confidence.

Lloyd Chapman
Associates
International
Search and Selection
100 New Bond Street London W1Y 0HR
Telephone: 01-409 1371

**CREDIT
REPRESENTATIVE****Bedford****Excellent Prospects**

This is an exciting opportunity to join the Corporate Control Department of one of the world's most successful electronics companies - Texas Instruments Limited.

Reporting to the Credit Manager and working in a small friendly team, you will be responsible for the management of many of our major customer accounts. Apart from the usual Credit duties, you will be expected to liaise closely with our marketing personnel and visit customers.

You will be confident, a skilled communicator and a good team member. Ideally you will already be working in a Credit function dealing with major accounts but we would consider somebody with experience in other control/accounting functions.

Educated to 'A' level or degree standard, you will be computer literate and hungry for career advancement.

In return, we can offer you an attractive salary, a wide range of company benefits and a real opportunity to advance your career.

Interested? Then send your CV to Mrs. V. Tibbels, Recruitment Officer, Texas Instruments Limited, Manton Lane, Bedford MK41 7PA, quoting Ref CS-43 or phone Bedford 223442 for an Application Form.

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Freedom to innovate, room to grow.

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TRAIN IN ANALYSIS**CITY £13,000**

Rapid advancement and full responsibility for budget analysis within this well known clothing manufacturer. Experience to be gained includes budget projections, variance analysis, budget centre reports and projected plans, all using up to date technology. Full Lotus training for a student accountant along with study package and many benefits.

70 Watling St, EC4 Tel: 01-236 0657**FINANCIAL ACCOUNTANT
CENTRAL LONDON £22,000 + CAR**

A responsible, reporting role is on offer by an established company specialising in travel and accommodation. Reporting to their corporate head office in the US, the responsibilities will also include staff management and excellent computer skills. Experience of multi-currency reports preferable but not essential. Benefits, Bonus, NCPS, Stock Option. Ref: SM/KBI

**43 Brompton Rd, Knightsbridge, SW3
Tel: 01-581 5021****CHIEF ACCOUNTANT
ADVERTISING AND MARKETING
WEST END**

Salary negotiable

Based in Mayfair, Dewynters, an advertising and marketing agency specialising in the entertainment sector, both in the UK and USA, is seeking a Chief Accountant to take on the day-to-day management of the accounts department.

Reporting to the Finance Director you will be responsible for:

- Installation of a new integrated computerised accounting system
- Leading a strong accounting team
- All aspects of financial and management reporting

For this demanding role we are looking for a qualified accountant (ACA/ACCA) with well-developed interpersonal skills and a pro-active approach. It is unlikely that the successful candidate will have less than 3 years' post-qualification experience, gained ideally in a related environment.

Future prospects are inevitably linked to the company's success and there is every indication that the growth of recent years will continue.

Applications should be sent to: Michael Storey, Dewynters Ltd, 28 Bruton Street, London W1X 7DB



DEWYNTERS LTD
Incorporated Practitioners in Advertising

Branch Accountant
Qualified ACA/ACCA with International Banking experience is sought by Investment Banking Group. Reporting to the General Manager, responsibilities will include assessing and developing new accounting and reporting procedures.

UK Marketing Officer
US Bank with a major presence in the UK requires an addition to their marketing team. You will have had several years experience with specific contacts in the UK sectors and possess the ability to maintain and develop client relationships. Experience in Property Finance would be an advantage.

Relationship Officer
Graduate Banker with a strong credit background urgently sought by leading American Bank. Responsibilities will include management of company portfolios and monitoring account relationships. Excellent opportunity for aspiring Marketing Officer.

Financial Analyst
A graduate, minimum upper second class, is sought by major British banking group. In your mid 20's with previous analysis experience, possibly a Management Trainee from a clearing bank, you will be keen to enhance your analytical skills through examination of credit risk in the areas of Capital Markets, Syndications and Export Finance.

JOSLIN ROWE
100 Bell Court House, 11 Mansfield St, London EC2A 4DU

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- PART
QUALIFIED
W. LONDON
£15 + STUDY
PACK**

Vibrant working atmosphere and interesting mix of duties with emphasis on analytical tasks offered to CIMA/CACA student. Assisting in preparation of plans and budgets and design of financial models on p.c.'s, position requires ability to communicate effectively including presenting information to Senior Management. Ref: 1270.

**CORPORATE
ACCOUNTANT
CENTRAL
LONDON
£24,000**

Important career move for commercially oriented Accountant with Head Office of renowned multi-industry group. Producing short and long term forecasts, strategic analysis of major projects and mergers and acquisitions work impact of information produced will be vital. A position where your numbers will be made to work. Ref: 1728.



BOND ACCOUNTANCY
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BOND HOUSE, 19-20 WOODSTOCK ST, LONDON W1R 1HF Tel: 01-429 8863

MBA's in Finance**Berkshire****£25,000+Car**

Our client is a market leader in the supply of digital telecommunication systems and office information management systems. A £2 multi-billion corporation with more than 40 manufacturing sites worldwide, they continue to develop new markets and improve their earnings performance.

They are now looking to recruit a Budget and Forecast Manager for one of the UK based distribution divisions with Pan-European responsibilities. You will be responsible for all divisional planning activities including forecasting, budgeting and long range strategic plans, as well as designing and developing performance measurement reports.

The successful candidate, aged 28-32, is likely to be an MBA with a background in finance, systems experience and the ability to communicate well, both written and verbally. Strong personal presence and commercial awareness are essential qualities.

In return the company offers an excellent remuneration package, with excellent prospects for subsequent advancement within the company.

Interested candidates should write enclosing a comprehensive CV to Stephen Doyle ACA at Michael Page Partnership, Kingsbury House, 6 Sheet Street, Windsor SL4 1BG quoting ref: SV 1062.

**Michael Page Partnership**

International Recruitment Consultants
London Bristol Windsor St Albans Leatherhead Birmingham Nottingham Manchester Leeds Glasgow & Worldwide
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SPREAD YOUR WINGS**Computer Audit Manager****Cheltenham**

Spread your wings and join the fast changing world of Financial Services.

As Computer Audit Manager for Eagle Star you will be part of the young management team of audit professionals heading up a high profile corporate function.

You will be responsible for computer audit throughout the Eagle Star Group worldwide, visiting our many overseas locations. You will direct a team of senior computer auditors, monitoring progress and ensuring objectives are met and standards maintained. The broad scope of this role reflects the diverse nature of the Group's business, its geographical spread, our expansion plans and the increasing demands for sophisticated computer systems.

The job contains a significant consultancy role with early involvement in systems development decisions. Emphasis in

our computer audit plan is on pre-implementation reviews of major new applications, on technical audits within the central MS function and on installation reviews at overseas subsidiaries.

We are looking for a qualified accountant with at least three years post qualifying experience in a computer audit or management consultancy role, probably gained with a major accountancy firm. You will have a unique opportunity to build on your experience in an environment where considerable importance is attached to audit and control. With constant exposure to senior management, your interpersonal skills will need to be well developed as you will be in a position of high visibility.

Career prospects are excellent and it is expected that a move into senior financial line management will be available to the

high flier within three years.

A highly attractive salary and benefits package is offered and this includes subsidised mortgage facilities, a car and a non-contributory pension scheme.

For further details call Chris Laidlaw, Group Internal Auditor, on 0242 221311 ext 23700. To apply please write to him with full CV at Eagle Star Insurance Limited, Eagle Star House, Bath Road, Cheltenham, Glos, GL53 7LU.

**Eagle Star**

INVESTMENT - INSURANCE - PENSIONS

Face the future with confidence.

**Group
Chief Accountant
High Tech plc
Bristol**

Our client is a fast growing plc, with both manufacturing and distribution interests in high-tech, vertical market products. The pace of the core business and the rate of acquisition have created the need to appoint a qualified accountant at group level.

This is a challenging and exciting role, reporting to the Group Finance Director, heading a small team responsible for collecting and reporting from all five finance centres and the preparation of group accounts. Included in the task is the development of controls and systems, transfer of funds and the group treasury role. The brief of the man or woman appointed will not finish with merely reporting the facts - there is a need to ask questions and to report on the true business picture. Some acquisition work is likely to be involved.

Candidates for this appointment should have had two to three years' post qualification experience and

exposure to more than one environment, with an experience of high standards of relevant reporting and control in a computerised company. Personal qualities must include an ability to operate with pace and urgency, management and communication skills, and the stature and presence to form effective relationships with subsidiary directors, and outside organisations.

The salary indicator is c£22,000 and the package will include a company car, and other benefits associated with a senior management role.

Please reply in the first instance, in writing, quoting ref. 81/501, to:

Lynne Crowden,
Simpson Crowden Consultants Limited,
Specialists in Executive Search and Selection,
9/19 Park Street,
London W1Y 3BA.

Simpson Crowden
CONSULTANTS

**BRISTOL CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE
& INDUSTRY****BRISTOL - ACCOUNTANTS
TAX SPECIALISTS**

Two International Firms of Chartered Accountants in Central Bristol require the following.

Tax Manager ACA/ATII to £25k. Corporate personal tax experience.

Tax Seniors. Qualified Accountants. £14k neg. 2-3 years audit experience.

ACA - newly qualified, to specialise in tax. From £13k.

Senior £10k neg. Experience more essential than qualifications. General practice dept. Incomplete records, VAT, TAX, PAYE. Own Clients.

Contact Kathie Neagle by telephone on (0272) 299010 or send full CV indicating salary requirement.

صكا من الامل

HORIZONS

A guide to career development

The legal brain at a firm's command

In a speech at Bretton Wood in the United States in 1944, Lord Keynes, formerly Maynard Keynes, the economist, paid a rather back-handed compliment to the legal profession.

He said: "And, for my own part, I would like to pay a particular tribute to our lawyers. All the more so because I have to confess that, generally speaking, I do not like lawyers. I have been known to complain that, to judge from results in this lawyer-ridden land, the *Mayflower*, when she sailed from Plymouth, must have been entirely filled with lawyers."

"When I first visited Mr Morgenthau in Washington some three years ago, accompanied only by my secretary, the boys in your Treasury curiously inquired of him - 'where is your lawyer?' When it was explained that I had none: 'Who then does your thinking for you?' was the rejoinder. 'Only too often our lawyers have had to do our thinking for us?'"

The idea that a lawyer in private practice, the "in-house" lawyer is almost bound to have the better knowledge of the business of his employer; he is likely to be the only one who can see when it is necessary to give legal advice unasked, and best able to contribute his own ideas as a lawyer on the most effective way of accomplishing a business objective without falling foul of the law in the process.

The demand for good corporate lawyers in the City and elsewhere is very much on the increase. They are in short supply.

The employer can change his firm of solicitors if upset with them much more easily than he can change a lawyer in his own employment, thanks to the provisions of the Employment Protection law. It is all the more necessary to select the right ones. "Choose your lawyer, sir, with as much care as you would choose your wife," Dr Johnson might have said.

A very effective way of choosing the right lawyer for the future is for the employer to make use of the Commercial Pupil scheme. The object of this scheme is to provide a young barrister, soon after qualifying, with experience in a commercial firm.

The usual period is only six months to a year. From the point of view of the



young barrister it is not only experience of "real life" in a legal environment, it may also provide useful contact for the future, including perhaps a reference and some experience should he, or she, decide to enter employment rather than returning to the Bar as a private practitioner.

It may also provide one or two potential clients in the event of a return to private practice and counts towards the period of compulsory pupillage required by the rules. In either event, it is paid employment.

The American practice of keeping lawyers "in house" as a ready source of expertise is catching on here, and can lead to being a power at the company board table, says D.P.F. Wheatley

There is no shortage of applications from talented young barristers for jobs as commercial pupils. The Bar still attracts many of the very best young lawyers, drawn by its glamour, or anxious to take the only route for promotion, the High Court Bench and beyond.

But the numbers called to the Bar exceed the numbers who can find places in the limited available Chambers, and the briefs to start a practice. The result is that many very able candidates are looking for commercial pupillage as a possible second string for their bow.

The only necessity for the employer is that in his legal department he must have at least one barrister who is a "pupil master", that is to say, a barrister approved by the General Council of the Bar who has had five years experience since his call to the Bar.

The legal department must be able to provide the necessary experience for the pupil, but this is not likely to be an obstacle, since usually the concern which

is looking for a pupil will have a sufficient spread of legal work.

At present there is a shortage of employers who encourage their legal department to take on a commercial pupil. This may well be because the scheme itself is of comparatively recent origin, and its advantages have not been sufficiently appreciated by employers. These are that the scheme provides a way in which a legal department can obtain a new input of ideas from a barrister, newly qualified, it is true, but often very able and full of enthusiasm.

Although the barrister normally stays for only six months to a year, that period can be geared to cover the holidays or other absences of permanent staff; it provides for a new face and some cross-fertilization of ideas on legal subjects.

It also means that the employer and his senior lawyers can take a good look at the new recruit, passing him on to life in some other employment or back to the Bar as the usual course of events, but with the additional ability to make him an offer of a permanent job if he (or she) fits really well.

Employment for six to 12 months is enough to make a good assessment of a young lawyer's potential for the future. So much better than the more usual engagement on the basis of a curriculum vitae, one or two interviews, and reports from other people.

If the long-term lawyer is going to be able to play a useful part in the thinking of his employer, every care is needed in the selection. This is probably the only way of having a really good look at a potential Senior Legal Advisor without embarrassment, should the assessment prove to be against him.

The idea of commercial pupillage was devised by the Bar Association for commerce, finance and industry, and it is fully supported by the General Council of the Bar.

More information can be obtained from Norman Wispey, Secretary, the Association for Commerce, Finance and Industry, 2, Pleinville Buildings, Middle Temple, London EC4Y 9AT (Tel. 01 353 4355).

The author, D.P.F. Wheatley, QC, is Chief Legal Adviser to Lloyds Bank.

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power in the sport
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RACING: PROMISING HOBBS PERFORMER HAS PERFECT WARM-UP FOR TILT AT CHELTENHAM'S SUN ALLIANCE CHASE

Easier task affords Bonanza Boy chance to regain winning thread

By Mandarin (Michael Phillips)

Bonanza Boy, that good young chaser trained by Philip Hobbs near Minehead, should enjoy a perfect warm-up for the Sun Alliance Chase at Cheltenham next month by winning the Bet with the Tote Novices' Chase qualifier at Taunton, his local track, today.

At Sandown Park, 12 days ago, Hobbs was far from pleased with the way that his seven-year-old jumped when finishing only third behind Yeoman Broker and Southair.

But to be fair, Sandown is not an easy course for a novice whereas Taunton is relatively simple. Also, the extra half-mile of this morning's race against inferior opposition should enable Bonanza Boy to pick up the winning thread again. He is my nap.

Otherwise, it should pay to follow the Midlands trainer Sally Oliver who looks poised to land a double with Glen Weaving (2.15) and Daffodil (4.15).

Bought for 7,000 guineas after winning a seller at Nottingham in November by 20

lengths, Glen Weaving can now benefit from a drop down in class again after failing to cut any ice against better opposition in his last two races, at Carlisle and Leicester.

Travelling companion Daffodil won six of her nine races under National Hunt rules during the second half of last year after being claimed out of Sir Mark Prescott's stable in June. Not surprisingly, she then reached the end of her tether.

However, after a well-deserved break, lasting 12 weeks, she should be bursting with vitality again today and ready to put the recent easy Newton Abbot winner Kings Victory in this place in the second division of the Blackdown Juvenile Novices' Hurdle.

Well that Russian Lady, Mrs Oliver's runner in the earlier division, should go if she may not be capable of beating Stella Grey, who cost his present connections 23,000 guineas in the autumn.

My selection only finished out of the first three once in eight starts on the flat for Guy

Harwood and I'm led to believe that he has jumped nicely at home for Kim Bailey, his current trainer.

Star's Delight, who won a valuable handicap hurdle on the same course three weeks ago carrying only 10 stone, can add to his haul by landing a double with Vincante (2.30) and Bright Dream (3.0).

Vincante, my selection for the Oadby Novices' Hurdle, clearly has the useful ex-flat performer Dockster, who won at Newmarket and Salisbury last season, to beat.

However, Vincante's most recent form at Fakenham and Warwick reads better than Dockster's rather remote fifth behind Rustle at Cheltenham on his jumping debut.

Grand National entry Bright Dream has taken on a new lease of life at the age of 12 in the opinion of his trainer. Certainly his record this season endorses that view.

Always blissfully at ease on heavy ground, Bright Dream should be in the current term by giving weight away all round.

In this instance, I'm inclined to doubt whether he will succeed in giving 12lb to either Zukko or Redgrave Devil.

Zukko won nicely at Windsor last time out. But I still prefer to give Redgrave Devil the chance to atone for that rather disappointing performance during the previous meeting when he was only third out of four on the Out of Range and Waterloo Boy. In the meantime, Waterloo Boy has

won at Newbury so perhaps in hindsight Redgrave Devil's last performance was not as tame as it appeared at the time.

At Leicester, Josh Gifford, the trainer with the best record during the past few weeks, can add to his haul by landing a double with Vincante (2.30) and Bright Dream (3.0).

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Mountain Crash has safe landing

By Dick Hinder

The Jockey Club confirmed yesterday that it was investigating another steroids case after Southernair, trained by John Jenkins at Royston, was tested positive following his victory in the Chase at Sandown on December 8.

David Pipe, spokesman for the Jockey Club, said that the test taken on Southernair has shown a substance in his system with similar properties to 19-Nortestosterone, which was found in David Elsworth's trained Cavvies Clown on the last three occasions he ran.

Pipe said: "The substance was not exactly the same as 19-Nortestosterone, but not far removed. It is the same steroid idea which increases muscle and compacted bone mass."

Pipe added: "We advised Jenkins on December 30 of the positive test. The report from the investigating officer is nearing completion and the disciplinary committee will convene to consider the case at a mutually-agreed date for an inquiry."

Jenkins was at Fakenham race meeting yesterday, but his wife, Wendy, said: "It really is a mystery. We got the horse in last week and he has had no veterinary treatment, apart from the normal things like treatment for worms."

"We are baffled. We checked with his owner, Stanley Powell, and his former trainer, Peter Haynes, that Southernair had not been given any steroids."

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Steroids detected in Southernair mystify Jenkins

By Dick Hinder

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Three-year deal is signed for Woburn

By Mitchell Platts
Gold Correspondent

Severiano Ballesteros is playing a waiting game as he ponders his future in Europe, now that he has moved residence from northern Spain to Monte Carlo. He has not yet decided whether to sign a three-year deal with Woburn.

He chose self-imposed exile in Monte Carlo last October, following a harrowing time in 1987 when his fortunes fluctuated on the fairways. So with only one victory in 16 months Ballesteros is determined to arrange a convenient commuting programme from the principality in 1988.

Peter German, the Tournament Director for the Dunhill event, said yesterday: "Seve withdrew from the Dunhill Masters last year after originally informing us that he would play. I was upset by his decision and in future when Seve decides to compete I will want it in writing."

"But it is nothing personal and I realize that as possibly the finest golfer in the world today huge demands are made on his time. He seems now not to want to commit more than one month ahead and whilst I wish he would make up his mind quickly, do understand his situation."

The problem for Ballesteros is that the move to Monte Carlo, almost certainly undertaken for taxation reasons, means that more pressure will be placed on his time. For instance he cannot compete in the British Open in his native Spain as I understand he has a commitment that week in Monte Carlo.

Even so, he will play in the new Majorca Open, which on March 7 will bring the curtain up on the 1988 PGA European Tour. His other early commitments are for the Spanish Open, which this year is being played on his home town course of Pedernera, the Volvo PGA championship at Wentworth and the French Open and the Monte Carlo Open.

Meanwhile Ballesteros is back in action in the United States. He will play in his prime objectives in the next two months will be the Tournament Players' Championship and the US Masters. Whether he attempts to win again the Dunhill British Open, which he won in 1986 - the sponsors are naturally pleased that Mark McNulty, the defending champion, along with at least 10 of the 12 players who remained the Ryder Cup, will be competing.

Total prize-money for the Dunhill Masters is £250,000, which is an increase of £50,000 on last year, and the company have signed a new three-year contract with the PGA European Tour and the tournament will be worth £300,000 in 1989 and 1990. It will also continue to take place throughout that time on the Duke's course at Woburn.

Richard Shimmis, a spokesman for Dunhill, said: "The importance of the event in the European calendar is confirmed by the strength of the field we can already announce even though the tournament is still four months away."

Severiano Ballesteros opens his 1988 US campaign at the Seve Ryder Cup on the magnificent cliff-top public course of Torrey Pines here.

Ballesteros's participation each season in between six and eight events on the US Tour is something of an oddity, but his dispute with its commissioner, Deane Beman, in 1986 over not playing in the mandatory 15 tournaments necessary to qualify for the Ryder Cup, the Spaniard is regarded with mixed feelings.

His name has been expunged from the tour book of biographies and facts and figures except, significantly, for his earlier years. Ballesteros's money list (he was No. 32 in 1987 with \$305,038 - about £175,000 - on only eight appearances) and in the details of the events in which he played and in the two-page report of the Ryder Cup.

He has both good news and bad for Americans. Page 1 lists the Cup results since 1927: only one victory for Britain between 1924 and 1977. Page 2 reveals the drastic change since Europe and the British Isles joined forces and it is clear to even the most prejudiced American that Ballesteros was one of the main architects on the south coast. Tony Jacklin, of course the inspiration off it, of that famous victory in Ohio last year.

Not only did Ballesteros and his protégé, Jose-Maria Olazabal, win two tournaments and one foursome before Hal Sutton and Larry Mize brought them down in the final foursome, but in a controversially signed deal, he was the true world No. 1 because of its crucial importance, Ballesteros beat Curtis Strange two and one.

Ballesteros has not been done any favours here, tucked away as he is in the field with the little-known Robert Wrenn and Ernie Gonzalez. They go off the south coast on March 12, when at least Seve will be off to talk in Spanish to his Mexican partner.

Burrough Hill Lad ready for lift-off

By Christopher Goulding

Burrough Hill Lad is expected to return to action in the next couple of weeks in his quest to capture the 1988 Cheltenham Gold Cup winner's last seen on a racetrack capturing the Gainsborough Chase at Sandown two years ago.

Mrs Pimm was in bullish mood about her charge yesterday. "He is a very good horse," she said. "He will run in the next couple of weeks and is very well," she said.

Stearns, one of many horses owned by Terry Ramsden currently for sale, who was the champion National when trained by Mrs Pimm, will not be joining Donald McCain's Southport stables.

McCain explained: "I was asked by an owner to find a horse for the Grand National. I made inquiries, but the asking price was far too high. Nothing like that. That's all there is to it."

However, McCain will be represented in the 150th running of the National with Kumbi. "The horse has had leg problems, but seems to be alright now. I will get the two legs fixed," McCain added.

Darkon, the ex-Irish gelding who was recently purchased to run in this year's National, is not a definite contender for the big race.

It was generally thought that Darkon was purchased to enable Gee Arnyage to have the ride in the National. Colin Tanker, who bought the champion for the Full Circle

Yesterdays results

Folkestone

Going: heavy
1.45 (2m 2f) 1. Outside Edge (P. Croucher, 11-4) beat 2. The Pommery (P. Croucher, 11-4) 2. The Pommery (P. Croucher, 11-4) 3. The Pommery (P. Croucher, 11-4) 4. The Pommery (P. Croucher, 11-4) 5. The Pommery (P. Croucher, 11-4) 6. The Pommery (P. Croucher, 11-4) 7. The Pommery (P. Croucher, 11-4) 8. The Pommery (P. Croucher, 11-4) 9. The Pommery (P. Croucher, 11-4) 10. The Pommery (P. Croucher, 11-4) 11. The Pommery (P. Croucher, 11-4) 12. The Pommery (P. Croucher, 11-4) 13. The Pommery (P. Croucher, 11-4) 14. The Pommery (P. Croucher, 11-4) 15. The Pommery (P. Croucher, 11-4) 16. The Pommery (P. Croucher, 11-4) 17. The Pommery (P. Croucher, 11-4) 18. The Pommery (P. Croucher, 11-4) 19. The Pommery (P. Croucher, 11-4) 20. The Pommery (P. Croucher, 11-4) 21. The Pommery (P. Croucher, 11-4) 22. The Pommery (P. Croucher, 11-4) 23. The Pommery (P. Croucher, 11-4) 24. The Pommery (P. Croucher, 11-4) 25. The Pommery (P. Croucher, 11-4) 26. The Pommery (P. Croucher, 11-4) 27. The Pommery (P. Croucher, 11-4) 28. The Pommery (P. Croucher, 11-4) 29. The Pommery (P. Croucher, 11-4) 30. The Pommery (P. Croucher, 11-4) 31. The Pommery (P. Croucher, 11-4) 32. The Pommery (P. Croucher, 11-4) 33. The Pommery (P. Croucher, 11-4) 34. The Pommery (P. Croucher, 11-4) 35. The Pommery (P. Croucher, 11-4) 36. The Pommery (P. Croucher, 11-4) 37. The Pommery (P. Croucher, 11-4) 38. The Pommery (P. Croucher, 11-4) 39. The Pommery (P. Croucher, 11-4) 40. The Pommery (P. Croucher, 11-4) 41. The Pommery (P. Croucher, 11-4) 42. The Pommery (P. Croucher, 11-4) 43. The Pommery (P. Croucher, 11-4) 44. The Pommery (P. Croucher, 11-4) 45. The Pommery (P. Croucher, 11-4) 46. The Pommery (P. Croucher, 11-4) 47. The Pommery (P. Croucher, 11-4) 48. The Pommery (P. Croucher, 11-4) 49. The Pommery (P. Croucher, 11-4) 50. The Pommery (P. Croucher, 11-4) 51. The Pommery (P. Croucher, 11-4) 52. The Pommery (P. Croucher, 11-4) 53. The Pommery (P. Croucher, 11-4) 54. The Pommery (P. Croucher, 11-4) 55. The Pommery (P. Croucher, 11-4) 56. The Pommery (P. Croucher, 11-4) 57. The Pommery (P. Croucher, 11-4) 58. The Pommery (P. Croucher, 11-4) 59. The Pommery (P. Croucher, 11-4) 60. The Pommery (P. Croucher, 11-4) 61. The Pommery (P. Croucher, 11-4) 62. The Pommery (P. Croucher, 11-4) 63. The Pommery (P. Croucher, 11-4) 64. The Pommery (P. Croucher, 11-4) 65. The Pommery (P. Croucher, 11-4) 66. The Pommery (P. Croucher, 11-4) 67. The Pommery (P. Croucher, 11-4) 68. The Pommery (P. Croucher, 11-4) 69. The Pommery (P. Croucher, 11-4) 70. The Pommery (P. Croucher, 11-4) 71. The Pommery (P. Croucher, 11-4) 72. The Pommery (P. Croucher, 11-4) 73. The Pommery (P. Croucher, 11-4) 74. The Pommery (P. Croucher, 11-4) 75. The Pommery (P. Croucher, 11-4) 76. The Pommery (P. Croucher, 11-4) 77. The Pommery (P. Croucher, 11-4) 78. The Pommery (P. Croucher, 11-4) 79. The Pommery (P. Croucher, 11-4) 80. The Pommery (P. Croucher, 11-4) 81. The Pommery (P. Croucher, 11-4) 82. The Pommery (P. Croucher, 11-4) 83. The Pommery (P. Croucher, 11-4) 84. The Pommery (P. Croucher, 11-4) 85. The Pommery (P. Croucher, 11-4) 86. The Pommery (P. Croucher, 11-4) 87. The Pommery (P. Croucher, 11-4) 88. The Pommery (P. Croucher, 11-4) 89. The Pommery (P. Croucher, 11-4) 90. The Pommery (P. Croucher, 11-4) 91. The Pommery (P. Croucher, 11-4) 92. The Pommery (P. Croucher, 11-4) 93. The Pommery (P. Croucher, 11-

CRICKET

Disciplined last day by New Zealand earns them a draw

From Alan Lee, Cricket Correspondent, Christchurch

A final day which had promised so much produced precious little. England left Lancaster Park with a familiar sense of anti-climax after a conspiracy of circumstances had frustrated their victory bid in the first Test. For other reasons, they also left with the sadly familiar whiff of acrimony in the air.

England could justly bemoan the loss of 13 overs and a pitch which chose the crucial time to act angelically. Doubtless, they also believe that several unpicking decisions went against them, a state of mind which is becoming dangerously regular and, in this instance at least, was utterly unwarranted. The bottom line is that England failed to win this game because, when it counted, their bowling could not penetrate a disciplined display of defensive batting.

There is now not a single victory on England's record-sheet in their past 11 Test matches, a rare and melancholy statistic. One has to feel sympathy for Mike Gatting, all 11, because in five of the draws England have been in the ascendant, and in two, winning everywhere but at the finishing line. England are not a good side, but neither are they as poor as the stark record indicates.

Gatting predictably claimed that things did not go England's way on this fifth day, and to a degree he was right. To be balanced, however, it must be emphasized that things went very much England's way over the first three days — critically, in the luck which they needed to

amass a score of 319, and in the injury to New Zealand's main bowling weapon, Richard Hadlee. If the fates evened up their offerings on the last day, then perhaps a draw was a fair result after all.

New Zealand began the day needing 304 to win. This was an irrelevant statistic. There was never any possibility of a run-chase developing, even when it became apparent that the pitch had been placated by Jeff Crowe's decision to employ the heavy roller and, later, by a prolonged exposure to sunshine, which most of us had begun to assume was being dangerously regular and, in this instance at least, was utterly unwarranted.

Wright and Franklin, the openers, survived for 70 minutes through their own application and, perhaps, through the England seamers' anxiety. All of them offered too much that could be safely ignored and resorted too frequently to the short ball when those of full-length were far more likely to cause problems. New Zealand had crawled to 14 from 16 overs, when the umpire quite properly assessed that the light had become too grim. Gatting stalked off shaking his head, and his mood was not to improve throughout a long and taxing day.

A prompt resumption after lunch gave Gatting the chance to introduce Emburey, but he looked a bowler with cold and under-employed spinning fingers. Soon, Dilley was recalled, and he struck with his first delivery, Franklin being caught on the back foot, palpably leg-before. In Dilley's next over, Wright went the same way, though umpire Aldridge considered the ap-

peal for so long that the batsman was gratefully preparing for the next ball when the finger was raised. It was Aldridge who was now to arouse the wrath of the England players, and of Dilley in particular, as the day entered its decisive phase.

Jones, very jumpy at first, survived a leg-before shout. Dilley looked distraught, but the ball was clearly missing the leg stump. Then Martin Crowe, whose wicket England prized most of all, appeared to squirt a yorker-length ball to cover, where DeFreitas took a diving "catch". The not-out verdict was again approved by the slow-motion cameras, which revealed that Crowe had been hit on boot and pad. Finally, too much for Dilley to bear, Crowe was reprieved again as Moxon held up a short-leg "catch". This one was borderline even with the technical benefits not available to Aldridge.

Crowe did not last much longer. He had never seemed at ease with his game and when he touched an out-swinging ball from Jarvis to French he was off towards the pavilion long before the umpire had a chance to uphold the appeal. Cynics claimed it to be the reaction of a guilty man; I would disagree.

When, 26 minutes after tea, Jeff Crowe shuffled into line against DeFreitas and became the third leg-before victim of the day, hope flowed back into England veins. It was very soon extinguished. The pitch, although still offering uneven bounce, was not giving sideways movement to the seamers and, anyway, Dilley looked a shadow of his former self when he returned for his final flourish. Jones and Bracewell batted with eminent good sense, and although Gatting persisted until after the five-fifty of the last 20 overs had been bowled, stalemate seemed inevitable some time earlier.

The man of the match award went to Chatfield, for his skilful and unflagging bowling. This did nothing to cheer Gatting, who marched away from the crease with a thunderous look on his face. He later explained: "As the ball was seaming around so much in the first few days, I would have thought the man who scored 114 [Broad] deserved some credit." Jeff Crowe did not disagree but then his demeanour was altogether more satisfied than that of his opposite number.

SCOREBOARD FROM CHRISTCHURCH

New Zealand won toss

ENGLAND

First Innings: 319 (B C Broad 114, R T Robinson 70, D K Morrison 5 for 69, E J Chatfield 4 for 87).
Second Innings: 152 (E J Chatfield 4 for 36, M C Snedden 4 for 45).

NEW ZEALAND

First Innings: 166 (G R Dilley 6 for 36).

Second Innings

	Runs	Wickets	Extras	Total
J G Wright lbw b Dilley	23	2	2	24
T J Franklin lbw b Dilley	12	—	—	12
A H Jones not out	54	—	—	54
M D Crowe c French b Jarvis	6	—	—	6
J J Crowe lbw b Dilley	9	—	—	9
J G Bracewell not out	20	—	—	20
Extras (b 6, lb 4, nb 5)	15	—	—	15
Total (4 wds, 77 overs)	130	—	—	130

R J Hadlee, H D G Smith, M C Snedden, D K Morrison and E J Chatfield did not bat.
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-37, 2-43, 3-61, 4-78.
BOWLING: Dilley 18-5-32-2 (nb 3); DeFreitas 19-6-29-1 (nb 2); Jarvis 17-7-30-1; Emburey 10-4-18-0; Chatfield 13-5-16-4.
Man of the Match: E J Chatfield.
Umpires: B L Aldridge and S J Woodward.

SWIMMING

Vote for demolition of Derby Baths

By Peter Ball

The future of Derby Baths, Blackpool, the most famous venue in British swimming, hangs by a thread. Blackpool Council voted yesterday to demolish the historic building unless the private sector comes up with a workable proposition for its rescue within the next seven days.

Yesterday's meeting, in a full council chamber packed with the Baths' local supporters, overturned last month's decision to reopen the pool on schedule in March pending discussion with the private sector by just one vote, 22-21, in spite of widespread criticism of the proposal in the town and beyond. The vote followed party lines. Cllr Blake, a member of the town's sports

council, obeying the Conservative whip in spite of the Sports Council's fierce opposition to the proposal.

The closeness of the vote reveals the sharp divisions, but it made no impression on the determination of the majority leader, Cllr Tom Percival, to push ahead with the demolition if the private sector does not come up with an alternative.

Condemning the haste of the decision, which he ascribed to "political stubbornness", the Conservative majority leaving the alternatives, Cllr Ivan Taylor, the opposition leader, demanded: "The pool has been

open for 50 years. Are we going to decide to close it down in 50 days?"

The answer, sadly, seems to be "yes". "The pool is full of nostalgia and history, but it has had its day and is a disgrace to Blackpool," Cllr Percival insisted, refusing to consider the possibility of a re-open for the summer to give time for more considered decisions.

The vote was taken against a background of a Lancashire County Council forecast of a 16.5 per cent rate increase. The Baths will require £1 million spending on them to bring them up to date, and like every swimming pool in the country runs at a loss, projected to be over £400,000 this year.



Cutting a swathe through the bears: Jenny Garnett evades tackles by Westfield classmates

RUGBY LEAGUE

Sweet little centre proves her worth to the bully boys

By Keith Macklin

When Jenny Garnett was asked what she wanted for her eighth birthday she said: "A pair of rugby boots." John and Valerie Garner, of Acomb, York, were not too startled since Jenny, now aged 10, had already made her intentions clear to the games master at Westfield junior school.

Aged seven, Jenny had made up her mind. She went to Gary Johnson and said: "I want to play rugby league. I'm fed up with girls' games." Johnson did not mind as he believes physical differences are not too marked at these ages and some girls are mentally tougher than boys to play rugby or football.

Jenny still had to overcome the innate sexism of some boys. Johnson said: "When she turned up for her first training session for the eight-a-side team, the lads made fun of her. She moped about a bit, then I asked her to join in the practice."

The boys soon stopped laughing. She tackled them so hard that some of the lads were fed up and wandered off out of the way. Now she's the best tackler in the eight-a-side team. She can tackle the boys into the ground, and does. Bang! Round the hips, thighs and ankles and down. She can stop them head-on, too."

Next year Johnson intends to play Jenny, who stands 4ft 5in and weighs 4½ stone, in

Westfield's full 13-a-side squad. If she maintains her development she will take her place in York City Boys for trials. "That would be funny; they'd have to change their name."

Jenny has played mostly at centre but she can play on the wing if required, and in one game she played full back. She said: "I like rugby because it's a rough game. I don't like girls' things like netball, hockey and dancing. The boys treat me as if I was a boy. They rough with me and knock me down, but it's fun and they never hurt me."

Her parents — John works on the railways and Valerie is a part-time cleaner — offer no objections. "They're proud of me and encourage me. My dad's a Manchester United fan and he wants me to play football. My brother, already plays football. They call her Sid."

Jenny's ambition is to play football and rugby league for the school. Then she would like to become the first woman to play for England and make the England squad, she would settle for Leeds at rugby or Liverpool at football.

Does she have any brothers or sisters? "I have a smashing brother, Paul. He's six. He plays with my Cindy Doll and I play with his Action Man."

FOOTBALL

Merseyside derby which has Kendall admiring from afar

By Ian Ross

Howard Kendall will pick up the telephone nervously on Sunday evening and call his family home in Formby from his adopted Merseyside. He will discover whether Everton's FA Cup marathon has been extended.

Kendall, of course, is now in charge at Athletic Bilbao, but for six years was manager of a side that tilted the balance of Merseyside football power. He is convinced that the Everton side which he nurtured, along with his successor, Colin Harvey, will defeat Liverpool in Sunday's televised fifth round tie, and set up a Merseyside clean sweep of the English game's three major domestic honours.

"I believe that Everton can play their part in achieving a treble for the area by going on to win the FA and Littlewoods



FA CUP

Cups," said Kendall, acknowledging that the League Championship is as good as Liverpool's.

Only Everton have beaten Liverpool this season, when they knocked them out of the Littlewoods Cup. "They are more than capable of repeating that feat on Sunday," Kendall predicts. "If they do manage to reach the quarter-finals, I can see them going all the way. Getting to Wembley becomes a pleasant habit." Kendall should know: Everton reached three consecutive FA Cup Finals during his years as manager.

"Sunday's game will be tight

Opportunity knocking again for Suckling

By Clive White

Not for the first time, the chief difference between the Auld Enemies at Pittodrie on Tuesday was the custodians between the two sides. Now with the disappointment, a cartilage operation and an eye injury all behind him, Suckling has come home to London to play a part in Crystal Palace's push towards the first division.

Watched by his parents, Suckling steadily refused to budge when Scotland forced the issue in the second half. Fine saves from Gallacher and Durrant enabled England to hold on, until Porter gave them the unexpected bonus of a first-leg lead to take to the City Ground, Nottingham next month.

But it may be a while before Suckling is ready to challenge the leading contenders in the senior side. Despite other sound performances in the England Under-21 team, notably from Walker, the Nottingham Forest central defender, it would appear that there is no one yet on the threshold of promotion. Meanwhile, England's young talent is developing nicely.

"Naturally, I still follow the fortunes of Everton. I have a radio which can pick up the World Service so, if we are not involved in a game, I can tune in on Saturdays to see how things are going. Failing that, I phone home for results. Needless to say, my bill has risen quite a lot during Everton's FA Cup run this season."

"Reaching the Littlewoods Cup final will perhaps prove to be more difficult after their semi-final first leg defeat by Arsenal, but I can see Everton going to Highbury and winning."

Kendall was swift to dismiss the notion that Liverpool have already enjoyed a great season: "They haven't had a great season yet because they haven't actually won anything, and until they do, it's all lip and blarney. From what I can gather, they have been playing exceptionally well, and Peter Beardsley and John Barnes appear to have fitted in quite beautifully."

"Those two seem to have knitted into the team pattern very well. They are displaying their individual talents. Their arrival at the club seems to have taken nothing away from the side's defensive play, which has possibly surprised people."

SPORTS LETTERS

RFU urged to act against misuse of tickets

From Mr Nicholas Serpell

The affair of the failure of a company to provide its clients with a promised 400 tickets for the England v Wales rugby international, although not because the tickets failed to materialize but that apparently this company is able to obtain this quantity of tickets in the first place. Where do they come from? Either they are purchased via rugby club members who are selling on their allocation, probably at a profit, or there is some other source of supply. In either case when the RFU goes to stop talking and begin taking action over the misuse of international tickets?

Unfortunately international rugby is now attracting the sort of people who know or care little about the game but can afford the sort of hospitality packages

which are becoming too common in all sports. The same people will be at Henley although they probably care nothing for rowing and, no doubt, appear at Ascot, although they know not one end of a horse from another. The problem with rugby is that the number who can actually get in to the game is severely limited and they know not one end of a horse from another. The problem with rugby is that the number who can actually get in to the game is severely limited and they know not one end of a horse from another. The problem with rugby is that the number who can actually get in to the game is severely limited and they know not one end of a horse from another.

It would be instructive if the RFU were to publish a breakdown of ticket allocations for home matches at Twickenham together with a summary of how many they themselves give to

organizations other than bona fide clubs. I would also like to see clear proposals as to what they intend to do next season to ensure that instances of clubs misusing their ticket allocation are dealt with by refusing those clubs tickets for future matches. It is time the RFU kept faith with the grass roots of the game and allocated all tickets to clubs. Bearing in mind that each year ticket applications from clubs would fill the ground three times over it would seem far better for rugby to have every seat filled by those who actually care about the game.

Yours faithfully
NICHOLAS SERPELL
Springfield,
Lower Middle Hill,
Pensilva, Liskeard, Cornwall.
February 11.

Charms of chance

From Mr J. M. R. Hagger

Sir, Mr K.N. Auton (February 11) appears to demand that skill alone should be the arbiter of sporting contests. Presumably under his rule a No. 11 batsman playing a tentative forward defensive prod, which takes a thin outside edge to the bowler's arm, would score no runs on the basis that no such effect was intended. Again, how would the

golfer fare whose appalling hook at the short 14th ricochets off a fallen oak and scuds into the hole? Play three off the tee?

Chance, misfortune and the fickle finger of fate all add to the interest and excitement of sports and games. Why should it all be reduced to a colourless demonstration? Mr Auton's philosophy matches that of the manager of Pinnerchester Rovers who, on hearing the draw for the FA Cup, insists that his mission

acting is surely their own business however uncongenial someone else may find it to be.

Yours faithfully,
ERIC HARVEY,
29 Arundel Street,
Brighton, Sussex.
February 5.

Freedom of choice

But is it not quite clear that any such injury arising is possible only in so far as the protagonists freely engage in the activity which, presumably, they know could have such consequences? What adults consent, by implication here, to receive from each other in freely

Time to give a girl a break

From Mr Philip Middleton

Sir, Pat Butcher and some of your other sports writers are beginning to sound very like bullies on the subject of Zola Budd and it is not a pretty sound. If Mr Butcher thinks we have all heard too much about her, let him be the first to stop writing about her? There is something pretty repugnant about what appears to be constant harassment and something pretty hypocritical about those who still pretend that Budd's British passport is in some way suspect.

There are thousands of ex-colonial (including, naturally, New Zealanders) who have been only too happy to take advantage of a British-born grand-daughter to gain residence in and nationality of Britain. The only difference between Zola Budd and the rest is that people like Mr Butcher appear not to have heard of the rest.

There aren't too many 21-year-old girls who would care to comment one way or the other on Thatcherism. Why do you suppose Budd would be able to give a considered response to far more complex political questions? Political activists will not be happy with anything Budd says or does. The rest of us would like her to be left alone to run. Athletics correspondents should tell us how she ran. That is all.

Yours etc
PHILIP MIDDLETON
31 Stanhope Gardens, SW7.

Far from a complete answer

From Mr Tom Pendry, MP

Sir, Your leading article (February 6) clearly shows a misunderstanding of the problems in football today. The aim of the variety of measures being implemented at football grounds throughout the country of which membership cards are but one (others include the installation of closed-circuit television cameras, better fences, all-ticket matches, family enclosures, local plans involving the police, etc) is to remove the hooliganism problem which is currently attached to football and which is fast attaching itself to other sports, like cricket and boxing.

Membership schemes specifically attempt to exclude trouble-makers from grounds in order that the vast majority of supporters feel content enough to go to matches in safety. Yet this season the implementation of membership schemes has meant that genuine football supporters have to pay more to watch matches, they have a restricted choice of position within the ground and, as Superintendent Briggs (the police officer in charge at the recent QPR v West Ham cup tie) said, the scheme caused the

problems which delayed the match for over an hour.

The leader named Manchester United and their experience shows clearly the problems caused by membership schemes. They have complied with the 50 per cent rule, but in doing so many thousands of supporters have been locked out of Old Trafford while there is empty space within the ground. These supporters have had to be held in the adjacent car park for the duration of the game, causing more difficulties for the police.

It is true that membership schemes can help to solve the problems in football; all that a 100 per cent scheme would achieve is to frighten away the very supporters (and families) that football needs to attract. The logical extension of such an unworkable 100 per cent scheme, which the police themselves oppose, is for football to be played behind closed doors. Does that really achieve anything? Yours sincerely,
TOM PENDRY,
Chairman of the All-Party Football Committee,
House of Commons, SW1.
February 9.

The famous five

From Mr George F. Balfour

Sir, You report today (February 15) that Andrew Keir, K.C., will become the fourth person to play for Scotland at rugby and cricket. Without reference to record books I can remember five previous double caps:

1. J. M. Lumsden, Warrington and Berke.
2. N. G. Davidson, Edinburgh University, Hawick and

British Lions.

N. G. R. Mair, Edinburgh University.

D. I. Bell, Watsonians.
K. J. F. Scotland, Heriot's, Cambridge University and British Lions.

I make no claim that this list is comprehensive.
Yours faithfully,
GEORGE F. BALFOUR,
3 Budd's Close,
Basingstoke, Hampshire.

PPA CERTIFIED DIVIDENDS

All dividends subject to scrutiny. All matches for Feb 13

LITTLEWOODS POOLS LIVERPOOL

SURPRISE SURPRISE

JOHN CLARKE OF BRISTOL WINS THIS WEEK STRATHCLYDE WOMAN WINS

£991,656 £996,854

TREBLE CHANCE PAY 6 DIVIDENDS

24 PTS £383,025-00
23 PTS £4,278-15
22½ PTS £335-20
22 PTS £243-70
21½ PTS £45-65
21 PTS £16-65

Below dividends to units of 10p. Expenses and Commission 30th January 1988 - 27-7%
Sole Claimants to units at 10p.

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VERNONS POOLS LIVERPOOL

This week's Treble Top

W YORKSHIRE £172,825 DERBYSHIRE £171,438 BERKSHIRE £168,523

TREBLE CHANCE
24 pts £168,093-00
23 pts £1,246-85
22½ pts £256-00
22 pts £81-60
21½ pts £11-65

Treble Chance Dividends to Units of 10p. Expenses and Commission for 30th January 1988 - 30.7%
For coupons Phone 01-200 0200

صلى الله عليه وسلم

